



National Council of Resistance of Iran U.S. Representative Office

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Experts: To Counter Threat from Iran's Regime, Side with the Iranian People Rising for Freedom, Keep Maximum Pressure

WASHINGTON, DC, June 5, 2020 -- On Wednesday, June 3, 2020, the U.S. Representative Office of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI-US), held a stellar panel of experts, to discuss "The Growing Threat from Iran's Regime."

Former Undersecretary of Defense for Policy, John Rood; former Undersecretary of State for Arms Control and International Security, Ambassador Robert Joseph; former Director of the National Counterproliferation Center and Special Adviser to the Director of National Intelligence, Ambassador Joseph DeTrani; and distinguished fellow at the Stimson Center, and former deputy director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Dr. Olli Heinonen were the panelists. Deputy Director of the NCRI-US, Alireza Jafarzadeh, moderated the online panel.

Panelists focused on subjects with regard to the Iranian regime and the threat it poses to the international community. Some of the subjects were: the expiring United Nations arms embargo on the Iranian regime, the snapback of UN sanctions, the Iranian regime's regional aggression, whether direct or through supporting proxy militias, its terrorism and assassination of dissidents abroad, the regime's missile and nuclear programs and its domestic oppression and crackdown on the Iranian people.

In his opening remarks, Alireza Jafarzadeh, explained the key role the nationwide network of the Mujahedin-e Khalq (MEK) has played inside Iran to expose the horrific extent of COVID-19 deaths, covered up by the regime and its criminal incompetence and depraved indifference during the pandemic. He said, "our movement has played a significant role in exposing the Iranian regime and the role of the regime's foundations and the IRGC to plunder the Iranian nation." Jafarzadeh also emphasized that none of the regime's rogue behavior and policies are supported by the Iranian people. Instead, the people have been chanting "leave Syria alone; think about us," or chanting, "neither Gaza, nor Lebanon, I give my life for Iran."

The panel's first speaker, the Honorable John Rood, enumerated a long list of malign actions of the regime in the region. He warned that "I'm concerned that more modern conventional capabilities will be open to Iran for the first time since the revolution, as the UN arms embargo is scheduled to end in October of this year. These more modern arms are likely to fuel an increased adventurism by the regime, as it continues to spread its malign influence."

"What do we do about this situation? I think one thing that is important is to continue the maximum pressure campaign to deplete and limit the ability of the regime, to export its malign influence across the region. It would be preferable if we saw a more multilateral approach as most of those sanctions have been the unilateral US sanctions... US military

forces need to continue to work with partners in the region to deter and where necessary take steps like the strike on Soleimani, to restore deterrence, where it has frayed,” Mr. Rood said.

Undersecretary Rood also noted that “it may be necessary for the United States and our partners to undermine the regime for years before it eventually falls given its unpopularity with the Iranian people, if the regime does not eventually show a willingness to support a negotiated settlement.”

The next speaker, Dr. Olli Heinonen, stated: “The other things which are of concern are related to these atomic archives, which were revealed in 2018... They give the indication that Iran has not really dismantled its nuclear weapons-related R&D. Why? First of all, why to keep those documents stored in that warehouse in Tehran. The second thing, what happened with this equipment, which was brought to Turquz Abad, which also showed some contamination of natural uranium particles, which is an indication that there might be some undeclared nuclear material in Iran.”

Dr. Heinonen said that Tehran has produced “about one ton of low enriched uranium, enriched up to 4.5 percent. This amount is actually enough to make one nuclear device if Iran wants to enrich it further to the level of 90 percent.”

Dr. Heinonen, a nuclear compliance expert, added that “the Iranian noncompliance was exposed in August of 2002 for the first time. Since that date there is no one day that Iran has been in full compliance with its nuclear obligations under the NPT safeguards agreement. I don’t think that the international verification regime should tolerate such a behavior.”

Ambassador Joseph DeTrani noted that, contrary to the assertion at the time, the JCPOA “wasn’t transformational in a positive way. It was transformational in a negative way. [the Iranian regime] felt more emboldened that they could be more active, and they use the IRGC and the Quds Force in a very, very aggressive manner.” He added that the JCPOA, “was a path for Iran to eventually pursue nuclear weapons.”

“Until the regime shows their behavior is changing and they’re not causing regional havoc with the IRGC and the Quds Force, whether it’s a Yemen, whether it’s in Lebanon, whether it’s Gaza Strip, or whether certainly in Syria or Iraq, and they are more overt with not only their nuclear programs but their missile programs, we have to keep the pressure on this regime. Understanding that it is the people of Iran that we care about. And we would always be supportive of the people of Iran, but not a regime that exploits the people, and that is adventuresome in their region and a threat to the region and eventually.”

Ambassador Robert Joseph, noting that “the people of Iran are the first and foremost victims of the regime,” remarked that “This is a regime that has lost all legitimacy. It can stay in power only through brute force and the denial of the aspirations of the people for freedom and democracy.” Mr. Joseph emphasized that “Regime change must come from within – from the people of Iran. We can and should help them to accomplish this goal through moral support and through the policy of maximum pressure, but it is on the Iranian people to determine their own future. It is their future to be determined by their efforts and their sacrifices.”

In his closing remarks, Mr. Joseph shared his main observations following a visit last year to Ashraf 3 in Albania, home to some 3,000 members of the main Iranian opposition, the Mujahedin-e Khalq (PMOI/MEK), saying that “If you go to the camp and you talk to the residents, you can feel the commitment. You can feel the spirit, the dedication of these people to achieve a free Iran.”

He said he found it to be truly amazing because, despite the torture and execution of many of their relatives, their spirit is positive, and optimistic – not regretful or revengeful. He also noted that “I also had the opportunity to witness some concrete things that the residents are doing to achieve the goal of a free Iran. For example, reaching out to the people of Iran with a message of hope, with the message of truth, and also activities that relate to the organization of the resistance inside Iran. And I think the MEK has been key to the resistance across the nation. And when you visit the camp, when you look at what they’re doing, when you feel the spirit of these people, there is no doubt why the regime brands the NCRI and the MEK as public enemy number one. And to me, that’s a badge of honor.”

Alireza Jafarzadeh, concluded the panel with his closing remarks and said:

- 1) The uprisings in 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020 proved that the Iranian people want change, they are willing to pay the price for it, as 1,500 people were killed by the regime in Nov 2019.
- 2) COVID-19 pandemic proved that this regime cannot solve any problems.
- 3) The supreme leader, Ali Khamenei and all other senior officials of the regime have repeatedly talked about the danger of another wave of uprising and that they may not survive the next one. In the height of the pandemic, the regime arrested two elite award-winning students of Sharif University of Technology, which is referred to as the MIT of Iran, because of what the Judiciary said was their ties with the main Iranian opposition the MEK. Another 18 individuals were arrested for similar charges.
- 4) In the past two years, European countries expelled seven “diplomats,” jailed another one; U.S. arrested 2 MOIS agents in the U.S. charged with spying on the officials of the NCRI, in what the Justice Department complaint described as “capture and kill operations,” and they are in jail now. Of these ten regime officials and agents, eight were arrested in connection with plots against the NCRI and its member organizations. This clearly shows that Tehran’s main preoccupation is to stay in power, and it sees this movement as having the capability and intent to lead the charge for regime change.
- 5) The stepped-up pressure on the Iranian regime has weakened the mullahs. Maximum pressure has worked. Snapback of all prior UN Security Council resolutions and sanctions associated with them is the way to go forward.

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Bipartisan House Majority Supports Resolution Condemning Tehran's Targeting of Opposition, Backs Iranians' Desire for A Democratic, Secular Republic

The NCRI's President-elect Maryam Rajavi commends the resolution as a reflection of the American people's support for the Iranian people's desire for freedom

WASHINGTON, DC, June 18, 2020 – Senior members of the U.S. Congress announced a congressional initiative co-sponsored by a House Majority, condemning the Iranian regime's terrorism targeting the main Iranian opposition in Europe and the United States, and supporting the Iranian people's desire for freedom and democracy.

The bipartisan House resolution, H.Res. 374, entitled, "Condemning Iranian state-sponsored terrorism and expressing support for the Iranian people's desire for a democratic, secular, and non-nuclear republic of Iran," was introduced by Rep. Tom McClintock (R-CA), and was cosponsored by a majority (221) of House members, including a senior member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Rep. Brad Sherman (D-CA). There are 10 committee chairs and ranking members as well as 113 subcommittee chairs and ranking members among the cosponsors of this resolution.

In a letter to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on June 15, 2020, Congressman McClintock brought the resolution to the attention of the U.S. Government on behalf of the House Majority which cosponsored it, to encourage all efforts to "recognize the rights of the Iranian people and their struggle to establish a democratic, secular, and non-nuclear republic of Iran while also holding the ruling regime accountable for its destructive behaviors."

The resolution highlights a number of terror plots by the Iranian regime targeting the members and events of the main Iranian opposition, the Mujahedin-e Khalq (MEK), and the parliament-in-exile, the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI), which occurred in Albania, France, as well as the United States. Only in the past two years, seven Iranian regime "diplomats" have been expelled, another one is in jail in Europe, and two other agents were convicted and imprisoned in the United States, all for terror plots primarily against the members of this movement.

The resolution condemned the "past and present Iranian state-sponsored terrorist attacks against United States citizens and officials, as well as Iranian dissidents, including the Iranian regime's terror plot against the 'Free Iran 2018 – the Alternative' gathering in Paris."

The resolution referred to “Mrs. Maryam Rajavi’s 10-point plan for the future of Iran, which calls for the universal right to vote, free elections, and a market economy, and advocates gender, religious, and ethnic equality, a foreign policy based on peaceful coexistence, and a non-nuclear Iran.”

In a video message, Mrs. Rajavi, the President-elect of the NCRI, commended the members of Congress for H.Res.374: “This Resolution, co-sponsored by a bipartisan majority of members of Congress, reflects the American people’s support for the Iranian people’s desire for a free Iran, a republic based on people’s free vote, separation of religion and state, gender equality, respect for the rights of ethnic groups, and a non-nuclear Iran.”

The NCRI’s President-elect added, “The Iranian people have struggled against two dictatorships for freedom. They overthrew the shah and will continue their struggle to overthrow the mullahs’ regime and achieve freedom.... The Iranian people will be inspired to know that the representatives of the American people hear their voice.”

In his remarks, Rep. McClintock said, “The initiative is strongly supported by both parties and involves representatives from 41 states and all committees including the House committees of Foreign Relations, Armed Services, Homeland Security, Appropriations, and Select Committee on Intelligence. This resolution was brought to the attention of Secretary Pompeo this week with the names of 221 co-sponsors as a policy suggestion that the administration should consider.”

The California lawmaker added “It [H.Res 374] comes at a time when the Iranian opposition to the regime, the National Council of resistance of Iran, is steadily gaining momentum, and has thus become the main target of the regime’s global terrorism. Dozens of the Iranian regime’s “diplomats” as well as its agents have been expelled or jailed by the European nations, including Belgium, France, Albania, as well as the United States for their terror plots, particularly against the NCRI officials. The Iranian resistance remains as the main target of repression in Iran. Many of its supporters have recently been arrested in Iran for their affiliation with this movement. Last November, the regime murdered at least 1,500 innocent Iranians protesting its cover-ups, mismanagement and corruption.”

Congressman Sherman, who is the lead Democrat co-sponsor of this resolution stressed, “The people of Iran are in the street screaming ‘enough is enough’ ... We must continue to advocate for an Iran that is non-nuclear, democratic, secular, and free.”

Highlighting his efforts to protect the MEK members living in Ashraf 3 in Albania against the Iranian regime’s terror plots, Mr. Sherman said, “I have also led congressional efforts to protect the Iranian opposition members who are outside Iran. In 2018, I led a letter to the Albanian Prime Minister urging that Iranian dissidents living in Albania be protected. Earlier this summer there were reports that two Iranians were arrested by the Albanian authorities. The Prime Minister must ensure that the Iranian regime doesn’t try to silence its critics living in Albania thru trumped up evidence.”

The Resolution recalls, “On July 2, 2018, the Belgian Federal Prosecutor’s Office announced it had foiled a terrorist plot against the ‘Free Iran 2018 – the Alternative’ gathering held on June 30, 2018, in support of the Iranian people’s struggle for freedom.”

The bipartisan document adds, “In December 2018, the Government of Albania expelled Iran’s Ambassador, Gholamhossein Mohammadnia, and MOIS station chief in Albania, Mostafa Roudaki, for planning terrorist activities against Iranian dissidents and members of the People’s Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI/MEK).”

The resolution calls on relevant United States Government agencies “to call on nations to prevent the malign activities of the Iranian regime’s diplomatic missions, with the goal of closing them down, including the Iranian embassy in Albania.”

The Resolution also notes that in the 115th Congress, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 4744, calling on the United States to “condemn Iranian human rights abuses against dissidents, including the massacre in 1988 and the suppression of political demonstrations in 1999, 2009, and 2017, and pressure the Government of Iran to provide family members detailed information that they were denied about the final resting places of any missing victims of such abuses.”

The resolution states that Congress stands with the people of Iran who are continuing to hold legitimate and peaceful protests against an oppressive and corrupt regime; and recognizes the rights of the Iranian people and their struggle to establish a democratic, secular, and non-nuclear republic of Iran.

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Bipartisan American Delegation in 2020 “Free Iran” Global Summit Agrees Regime’s Collapse Near, Alternative is NCRI

Maryam Rajavi, President-elect of the NCRI: “We do not seek power at any cost; we seek freedom and justice and a democratic, secular, and non-nuclear republic.”

WASHINGTON, DC, July 28, 2020 – The 2020 “Free Iran” Global Summit was held on July 17, this year online. As in years past, an impressive array of speakers from across the world gathered in the largest virtual political gathering in memory. With attendees including 1,000 international dignitaries, politicians, and parliamentarians from 6 continents, 102 countries, the summit, which connected 30,000 locations, was an inspiring display of the Iranian Resistance’s ability to adapt and push forward despite an unprecedented pandemic.

The keynote speaker was Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, President-elect of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI), the parliament-in-exile. The People’s Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI), also referred to as the Mujahedin-e Khalq (MEK), is the NCRI’s principal member.

Mrs. Rajavi said: “We do not seek power at any cost; we seek freedom and justice and a democratic, secular, and non-nuclear republic. Our people must enjoy the right to be healthy, to have shelter, employment, to organize and form syndicates, to have autonomy of ethnic minorities, the right to equal participation in running the society’s affairs, gender equality and popular sovereignty, and an Iran where there will be no capital punishment.

“We have come together to underline three monumental and historic commitments that we have pledged to accomplish. Our first is that we, the people of Iran and the Iranian Resistance, will overthrow the clerical regime and will reclaim Iran. Our second is that we, the people of Iran and the Iranian Resistance, will build a free and democratic Iran. And our third is to remain faithful to our people’s sovereignty and their vote; to not seek power at any cost, but to establish freedom and justice at any cost; to never return to the dictatorships of the Shah and the mullahs. And, as the majority of elected lawmakers in the U.S. and Europe have pointed out, we want to establish a democratic, secular and non-nuclear Iran.”

The speakers from the United States included a stellar bipartisan group of current and former members of Congress, and former officials.

Former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani, described The Free Iran Summit as being “for the people of Iran, who are living under tyranny, to let them know their fight for freedom is supported around the world, at the highest levels ... Iran’s people have made it clear to the

world that they want a free and democratic Iran, ruled by law, in which women are treated equal as men. These are the goals of the MEK, of the NCRI, and of Maryam Rajavi ... The protests in Iran are increasing... Regime change in Iran is within reach. That's the goal of the NCRI and Maryam Rajavi, a free Iran that will contribute to peace in the world."

Mr. Giuliani was among a bipartisan group of 31 distinguished former civilian and military officials and scholars who were signatories of a statement released on the eve of the summit, entitled "Time to Prepare for Iranian Regime Accountability." Noting that "The days of religious fundamentalists controlling Iran are numbered" and that "Not just the rights, but the lives of Iran's citizens are being sacrificed for the empowerment of a dysfunctional and rapacious theocracy," the statement declared, "There is a beacon of hope in this dark landscape. The one organization that has done more than any other entity, including governments, to free Iranian citizens from tyranny and the world from fundamentalist-inspired terrorism is the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI). The NCRI strives relentlessly to ensure that hope for democracy and an end to injustice remains alive in Iran... While the US and other governments contemplate policies to deter and contain Iranian threats and aggression, they can and must act to bring accountability to people with the blood of so many Iranians on their hands. Ample precedent exists that leaders cannot claim sovereign immunity for their crimes against humanity."

Former Senator Joe Lieberman was profuse in his admiration not only for "his dear friend Maryam Rajavi and her leadership," but the Resistance as a whole. "Is there another opposition group, or frankly are there many groups in the world who could organize a meeting like this?... I don't think so." Lieberman concluded, "I am proud as an American to stand with the NCRI, the MEK, and Maryam Rajavi, because your values are American values, your interests are American interests, and your enemy – this fanatical, aggressive, suppressive, tyrannical, terrorist-supporting, corrupt regime in Iran – is our enemy."

Former US Senator from New Hampshire Kelly Ayotte, stated "I would like to thank Maryam Rajavi and the NCRI for your courage in standing up against the tyranny of the mullahs. Iran's people have told the regime the game is now over. Iran's people deserve freedom from the oppression, evil and tyranny of the mullahs. We stand with Iran's people. It is time for regime change in Iran. It is time for the regime to go. We join together to say loudly: The Mullahs Must Go!"

Arizona Senator Martha McSally, a member of the US Air Force for 26 years with six deployments in the Middle East, denounced the regime who, she said, "have hundreds of my fellow service members' blood on their hands." As "the first female U.S. fighter pilot to fly in combat and the first woman to command a fighter squadron," Senator McSally was outspoken in her admiration for the Resistance's commitment to female leadership. "I'm also grateful for your focus on equal participation of women in the political, social, and economic future of Iran," MaSally said, adding, "It is important for the people of Iran to have their own voice. We stand with you, stand with the brave Iranian people. You are putting everything on the line for your God-given right to freedom." In a call to action, she addressed Europe, saying, "The maximum pressure campaign has been working and is squeezing the Iran regime's cash on terrorist activities and repression. We must support the extension of the arms embargo on Iran."

Congressman Lance Gooden of Texas, gave a brief optimistic message, highlighting his pride at having travelled to Albania to visit Ashraf-3 last year, and that “members of the United States Congress are fully behind youth... thank you to Madame Rajavi for all she’s doing. She is fighting alongside you and making progress that we’ve never seen before here in the U.S.”

Former Senator Robert Torricelli of New Jersey began by addressing “the point of the spear,” the residents of Ashraf-3 who “spend every waking hour thinking about how to maneuver the Iranian people into a new, prosperous, and free future.” He spoke of the regime’s disgustingly inadequate response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and how those who had been aware of the true nature of the regime were not surprised. Ending with a powerful call to action, the former senator addressed those in Iran suffering directly under the regime’s rule: “Today in Iran, if you are hearing our words, take a quiet moment. Everyone can do something. Decide upon your role, how you will stand with Maryam Rajavi... Everyone can contribute... Thousands have died, tens of thousands have been imprisoned. We are not asking you to do that; we are asking you to do something. Hazer Hazer Hazer! (Ready, Present, Prepared!) Stand with Maryam Rajavi. Take a stand. We will never abandon you; we are all with you until the end.”

Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich addressed the summit by touching on the “strange moment in history” in which we find ourselves. He expressed hope that “the day is rapidly approaching where we will witness a free Iran and celebrate in the streets with one another.”

Introduced as “a passionate friend of the Iranian people and the Resistance,” former Congressman (RI) Patrick Kennedy spoke of his admiration for the NCRI and its ability to continue to fight against the regime despite the repeated attacks. “The virus of religious fascism has cost millions of lives. It needs to be extinguished. We know the principles of NCRI, MEK. They will provide the vaccinations.” The former congressman was deeply encouraged by the leadership of Maryam Rajavi and her Ten-Point Plan. In a powerful closing statement, he hammered home that “Iran’s regime, as the leading state-sponsor of terrorism, is a threat to justice and peace everywhere around the world. So, this is a fight of all human beings.”

Michael Mukasey, the former US Attorney General, touched on the threat that the NCRI represents toward the regime. He supported this by highlighting the bomb plot orchestrated by the regime that was meant to target the Free Iran gathering in Paris in 2018, attended by 100,000 participants. He stated quite bluntly that the only way to address the problems related to the regime is to end the regime. According to the former USAG, the answer is the NCRI, which has a legitimate vision and means toward establishing a democratic, non nuclear, and free Iran as laid out by Maryam Rajavi’s Ten-Point Plan. Further, the former USAG stated, “We should continue to press our own governments to continue the arms embargo on Iran, and to see to it that the most severe sanctions available snap back on the regime. The regime’s continued maintenance of a ballistic missile program, whose only purpose is the delivery of nuclear weapons, reveals its ongoing effort to develop a nuclear weapon. The recent explosion at Natanz set back those efforts, but at the same time revealed that Iran has never interrupted its nuclear weapons program.”

The first Secretary of Homeland Security, former Governor of Pennsylvania Tom Ridge opened his speech with a note of thanks to the Albanian leadership: "At the outset, I do want to recognize the leaders of Albania, several of whom have spoken previously. I've had the good fortune of knowing many of them and I know full well the spirit of their politics and how difficult and challenging it can be as they have strong opinions that can often differ. But the fact that they are united in providing home, support, and protection to Ashraf 3 is something that is very important to their friends in the United States. So I want to express my appreciation and that of the United States delegation present with us today, in thanking you for your sustained support not just for human rights but for the men and women of Ashraf." The former Secretary of Homeland Security stressed that this fight "involves everyone, the people of Iran and their allies in the international community." Gov. Ridge emphasized that if an unprecedented virus cannot keep the Resistance from coming together in such magnitude, there is no way the regime can withstand what is to come, "the inevitably of a free Iran."

Former FBI Director Louis Freeh expressed his awe: "You know what is amazing about this meeting this year is not just the technology. Madam Rajavi and your colleagues, I commend you for the ability to be able to communicate the way we are communicating under all the challenges you have overcome. Wonderful job and congratulations to all the many people who have worked on it... We are not memorializing a past event, but looking toward the future." He touched on two points that he insisted should not be overlooked. "First, survey the state of the world and look at how difficult this pandemic has been on the various governments across the globe. The Iranian Resistance was able to adapt and move forward in a way that makes it clear that this is not a movement to be underestimated. An event like this, given the conditions, takes legitimate organizational and diplomatic prowess which bodes well for the bridge period when the regime does fall. Second, this is an organization that looks forward with progress always on the mind. It speaks to why the past 40 years of devastation has only served as further motivation to continue the fight rather than cripple the effort."

Former Vice Chief of Staff of the United States Army and Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient, General Jack Keane lent his support behind the NCRI and the Iranian opposition, noting the "significant and dramatic" movement in the past year towards the end of the regime, unlike anytime in the previous 40 years. "We in America are inspired by the Iranian people's raw courage and by Maryam Rajavi's leadership." As he noted, the regime is much weaker due to the current administration's maximum pressure campaign. 90% of the oil can't be exported, signifying the free fall of the economy.

Like many of the previous speakers, Mrs. Linda Chavez, former White House Director of Public Liaison, marveled at the organizational prowess of the NCRI and its ability to make the event such a rousing success during a pandemic that is shutting countries down. She asked a poignant question: "Why does the regime fear Maryam Rajavi? Is it because she has tanks, because she has guns, or because she has soldiers? No, it is not for any of those reasons. It is for the simple reason that she stands for ideas of liberty, that her Ten-Point Plan is the best hope for the freedom of the Iranian people. She has been a beacon in the wilderness to gather together those who support a free Iran."

Retired General James Conway kept it brief with three main points. First, "the regime has had a tough year." Second, "the NCRI has done much over the years to correct what is

happening in Iran and yet as patriots of that great nation, you cannot return to the country of your birth.” Finally, “your movement was handed what I think was a tremendous gift, and that gift was the death of Qasem Soleimani.” He succinctly summarized the dire situation in which the regime finds itself, and the valiant efforts of the Resistance toward that end.

The former Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security, Robert Joseph, made clear how dire the situation is for the regime. “The end is coming and there is nowhere for the mullahs to go. The only option they have is to double down” because, as Joseph pointed out, “the people will not forget what the regime has done.” He went on to lay out steps that must be taken going forward, i.e there must be a continuation of a unified maximum pressure strategy from the international community that ultimately supports the MEK and the brave Resistance fighters within Iran.

Cyber security expert Theresa Payton (former White House Chief Information Officer) touched on the nature of the battle with the regime which included digital in addition to physical, as she outlined Tehran’s methods for conducting what amounts to warfare in the digital sphere. There are three strategies in play, she said: cyber intrusions, digital manipulation campaigns, and terrorism, as analyzed in an expose by Reuters.

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Distinguished American Speakers at 2020 Free Iran Global Summit Deplore 1988 Massacre in Iran, Call for Justice

NCRI President-elect Maryam Rajavi: The 1988 massacre of 30,000 political prisoners is “one of the most horrifying and indescribable crimes” of the regime.

WASHINGTON, DC, August 1, 2020 – Over the July 17th weekend, the Iranian Resistance held its annual “Free Iran Global Summit.” Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year’s gathering was hosted virtually over the course of three days in Ashraf 3, home to members of the People’s Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI), also referred to as the Mojahedin-e Khalq (MEK). The first day brought together supporters of a free Iran from six continents, at more than 30,000 locations in over 100 countries, including Iran and Albania.

The second day was devoted to the 1988 Massacre of 30,000 political prisoners, mostly MEK members and supporters, executed during five months of evil largely ignored to this day by the international community. The massacre was carried out per a fatwa (religious decree) issued by then Supreme Leader Ruhollah Khomeini. Many of the current officials of the mullahs’ regime played active and key roles in this crime against humanity. The culprits include the regime’s current Supreme Leader, Ali Khamenei, who was president at the time, and Ebrahim Raisi, currently head of the Judiciary who in 1988 was a member of the “Central Death Commission” in charge of executing political prisoners.

Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, President-elect of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI), delivered the keynote speech at the Free Iran Summit. She described the 1988 Massacre as “one of the most horrifying and indescribable crimes” of the regime. “With his fatwa sanctioning the massacre, Khomeini intended to annihilate the MEK,” she added.

The Call for Justice movement, initiated by Mrs. Rajavi in 2016, has played a pivotal role in shedding light on the 1988 Massacre and other crimes against humanity committed by the mullahs’ regime. “Over the past 32 years, the Iranian Resistance has held hundreds and thousands of conferences, rallies, marches and symbolic trials in this regard and divulged numerous documents, names of victims and locations of their unmarked graves,” the Iranian opposition President continued.

Paying tribute to the tireless efforts of MEK martyrs and Iranian Resistance leader Massoud Rajavi, Mrs. Rajavi concluded her speech by saying, “For 40 years, the mullahs have been viciously crucifying the MEK and the Iranian Resistance, particularly Massoud Rajavi, every day with a barrage of lies and unfounded allegations, just like they killed and tortured our people... But today Massoud Rajavi’s name inspires the rebellion and the fight for freedom, just as his name inspired the perseverance and resistance of political prisoners

during the 1988 Massacre... There will come a day when his dream of a free Iran will come true. Yes, the day will come when the flowers of freedom and popular sovereignty will bloom in Iran.”

The Summit's second day also saw an array of distinguished political and human rights figures address the event, several Americans among them. Ambassador Lincoln Bloomfield, former State Department Special Envoy and Former Assistant Secretary of State for Political Military Affairs, went into detail about the disinformation campaign of the regime and its attempts to discredit the NCRI and MEK, both internationally and in Iran. In his words, “I have studied the allegations against MEK and NCRI, and they were not supported by credible evidence. I prepared an independent report and became very interested in the deeper story. The more I looked, the more I found the true story of the MEK has been erased and misrepresented. They advocate democracy and freedom of speech.

“Is there any other resistance group advocating universal democratic values in Iran? Is there any other resistance group standing for gender equality against a brutal and corrupt regime 100% controlled by men? Is there any other resistance group that is capable of organizing a worldwide virtual meeting with thousands of people in over 100 countries? You'll recognize that picture. It's a remarkable sight. The world has never seen anything like that. The regime sees these events and they know the NCRI and the MEK more than anyone else are fully capable of organizing a democratic transition to legitimate constitutional government after the fall of the regime,” Ambassador Bloomfield said.

Former U.S. Ambassador to the UN Human Rights Commission Kenneth Blackwell spoke: “We must expose this regime and its reign of terror with what we can. We must demand that the world court try these criminals for their crimes against humanity. We must bring support to the men and women who are willing to do what they are able to do inside of this repressive regime in Iran. By supporting the people of Iran, we give humanity and freedom a fighting chance. We must be the points of light in the shadow of darkness. We must be agents of change, take the risks to be supporters that there be actions taken against this regime of darkness and terror. Let's commit to be a force for change.”

Former political prisoners and MEK members also gave heart-wrenching testimonies of the torture they suffered at the hands of the mullahs during the summer of 1988. Homa Jabari urged world leaders to stand on the side of justice and to “remember the suffering of the Iranian people” when they craft policy towards the regime. “We were the generation who went to the execution chambers because we chose freedom. We chose this path with open eyes and full knowledge, and decided to sacrifice everything for freedom. The world must know what happened to the MEK in the past 40 years. European leaders should know that when they shake hands with this regime, they must remember the suffering of the Iranian people.”

Another MEK member and eyewitness to the atrocities, Damona Taavoni, said, “My father was executed by the regime. I was taken to prison with my mother when I was six years old. I remember the shouts of prisoners in torture chambers. As I grew up, I heard inspiring stories about the victims of the 1988 Massacre. Prisoners were asked a single question: ‘Do you support the MEK?’ Those who said yes were executed. Those who said no, survived. We know that 30,000 said yes.

“I’m here to be the voice of the 30,000 political prisoners who died. They made a decision to sacrifice their lives so people in our country don’t have to sell their body parts to put food on the table for their families,” added Taavoni.

Bahador Kiamarzi, also a MEK member and eyewitness to the 1988 Massacre as a child, told the summit, “When I was a child, I was in prison with my mother. I had never seen my father. Once, I was told I would get to visit him, but I only got to peek at him through the frame of the cell door. The regime didn’t let me see him because they wanted to enforce the utmost pressure on him. He was executed shortly after, along with 30,000 other political prisoners in the Iranian regime’s prisons... We will continue our struggle for our people. The sacrifice of the prisoners will not be in vain. We are more determined than ever in Ashraf 3 to overthrow the regime.”

The last eyewitness to address the second day of the Free Iran Summit was MEK member Kazem Panahi: “I was an engineering student in Tabriz after the 1979 revolution. I was arrested in 1981 for being an MEK supporter... We have repeatedly called on the United Nations and UN Human Rights Council to investigate the regime’s crimes. The regime leverages its lobbies outside Iran to launch a demonization campaign against the MEK, who are in fact the primary victims of the regime’s crimes. The goal of these demonization campaigns is to simply say that there is no democratic alternative to the regime. The regime wants to force the world to come to terms with them. But the MEK will never give up their efforts to overthrow the regime.”

The summit drew together a variety of speakers from around the world, all of whom noted that in word and deed, the NCRI and MEK have demonstrated that they want to return sovereignty to the people of Iran, not to seek power at any cost. Many groups and movements have said as much before, but as the testimony of the former political prisoners and experts at day two of the Free Iran Global Summit underscored, actions speak louder than words, and nothing speaks louder than the MEK and NCRI’s selfless resistance in the face of an evil, murderous regime.

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Bipartisan Members of US Congress, Policy Experts Speak at “End Iran Regime’s Terrorism” Conference

NCRI President-elect Maryam Rajavi: The 1988 massacre of 30,000 political prisoners is “one of the most horrifying and indescribable crimes” of the regime.

WASHINGTON, DC, August 7, 2020 – On July 20th, the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI) hosted “End Iran Regime’s Terrorism” Conference as part of a three day summit connecting over 30,000 locations across 6 continents in over 100 countries, including Iran. The focus was the regime’s use of embassies as a springboard for terrorism abroad.

The discussion highlighted a particularly sinister strategy by the regime to carry out terror operations against the Iranian Resistance. After a top regime intelligence officer operating under the guise of a senior diplomat in Austria masterminded a failed bomb plot in Paris two years ago, targeting the 2018 Free Iran Rally with 100,000 attendees, there was a ripple effect as Tehran’s diplomats were expelled not only from France, but by the Netherlands, and Albania.

“Terrorism is the essence and fundamental nature of this regime and it is inseparable from it. These are the methods used by the regime; this is how the regime has held onto power over more than 40 years, through suppression and terrorism,” Mrs. Rajavi emphasized.

The Resistance’s President-elect noted that “It was not the power of the regime that made the expansion of its terrorism and fundamentalism possible; it was a policy of appeasement,” adding that “The right policy can be summed up in a single word: firmness... That means firmly dispensing with everything that enables the regime’s terrorist activities, and firmly responding to every single criminal act... The regime’s terrorism grows and expands under the shadow of silence, denial, ignorance, turning a blind eye and looking the other way.”

Mrs. Rajavi concluded by laying out key measures that can stop the regime’s terrorism in Europe and elsewhere, including the following:

- Closing the regime’s embassies.
- Shutting down all centers of the regime’s espionage and terrorism, including front companies, cultural and educational centers, and religious associations funded by Tehran.
- Blocking international financial transactions by individuals or front companies of the mullahs’ MOIS or IRGC Qods Force.
- Expelling the regime’s agents and operatives who function under the cover of commercial, cultural, or religious fronts, or as journalists, “dissidents,” refugees, or “ordinary” citizens.
- Preventing security and intelligence services from establishing a relationship with the regime’s MOIS or IRGC Qods Force.

- Fully and publicly exposing the regime's terrorist plots and operations, the identities of the MOIS and IRGC Qods Force agents and operatives active in Europe, and the regime's front entities and/or lobbies.
- Passing effective legislation to facilitate the expulsion of MOIS and IRGC operatives from Europe and the U.S.

Honorable John Rood, former U.S. Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, spoke next: "First, let me compliment Mrs. Rajavi on that powerful address. It's also incredibly impressive the way that the organizers have brought together so many from so many different locations in a very interconnected way. ... You should feel very proud of the way that you have connected everyone.

"Terrorism has been at the heart of the Iranian regime and part of its ideology since the 1979 Revolution that brought [Ruhollah] Khomeini to power. This ideology embraces terrorism as a tool of statecraft. And the ideology promoted by Khomeini envisioned spreading this revolution across the region... We have seen the Iranian regime using Iranian forces and utilizing its embassies and people registered as diplomats to conduct and support terrorism across the Middle East and globally in Europe, Africa, Asia, even in North America and South America. ... The people of Iran do not support the regime's terrorism.

"It's very important that we continue the maximum pressure campaign... to deplete and limit the ability of the regime in Tehran to support terrorism and export its malign influence across the region... A second thing that we need to continue to do is use U.S. military forces to work with partners in the region to deter and where necessary take steps, like the strike on Qassem Soleimani, to restore deterrence and to deter further terrorist attacks where we see that deterrence fraying.

"We need to recognize that terrorism is a part of the fabric of this regime in Tehran. It has been since the start and remains so today. This means that things like Iranian embassies and so-called diplomats will continue to be employed in supporting terror. Countries must act accordingly to very closely monitor and surveil the activities of those Iranian diplomats posted abroad, and in some cases like we have seen in Albania, they will need to shut down embassies that support terrorism. We simply have to be clear that this is not acceptable, be firm in responding."

Excerpts of remarks by other speakers from the United States include:

Former Mayor Rudy Giuliani: "Let me congratulate you [Madame Rajavi] on the remarkable historic achievement of the [July 17] virtual conference that you held. We are starting to feel that freedom in Iran is getting closer... There is something we can do to help. We must get European governments to finally support decency, to finally support what they supposedly stand for: democracy and freedom. They went through their own revolutions to accomplish democracy and freedom. They should be on the side of your freedom and not the side of greed. The more pressure we put on Iran, the faster this can happen... I see a very strong path. The regime of terror will end."

Senator Bob Menendez (D-NJ): "I am pleased, as I was last year, that so many of you are safely in Albania. Your safety and security offer a glimmer of hope that all Iranian people may someday be able to live in safety, dignity and freedom... While in Congress we may

have differing approaches about the best way to address the threat from Iran, rest assured that we remain united in opposition to the regime's ongoing abuses against its own citizens..."

Senator John Cornyn (R-TX): "What a privilege it is to speak to all of you as you continue to fight for a free Iran. America stands in full solidarity with the people of Iran and fully supports their desire to be a free people as evident in the uprisings as we have seen in the last few years. Earlier this year, I joined a number of my colleagues to sponsor a resolution that supports the people of Iran as they continue to engage in legitimate forms of protests and condemns the current regime's murderous response. But that's just one step in the path towards a free Iran. We've got many more to go. America stands with the people of Iran in their desire to be free."

Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD): "Our [Senate Resolution 539] supports the rights of the Iranian people to self-determination and condemns the regime for its violent suppression of free expression ... It also calls on the administration to do everything possible to ensure free and uninterrupted access to the internet for the Iranian people. Finally, the resolution urges the U.S. President and Secretary of State to work with the international community to ensure that members of the Iranian regime be held accountable for their violations of human rights... The fight is not over. The Iranian people are brave and resilient and you're continuing to wage a heroic uprising against the corruption and brutality of the regime. But a brighter future is within reach in Iran."

Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL): "In addition to being the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism, the evil regime in Tehran continues to suppress the most fundamental human rights of its people. The Iranian people deserve a government that respects the rule of law, democratic norms, and places the needs of the Iranian people above funding its adventurism abroad. It is critical for the United States and other democracies around the world to stand with the Iranian people."

Senator Mike Braun (R-IN): "As a threat to our national security and leader in human rights abuses, we must be harsh with Iran. Since coming to the U.S. Senate, I joined with my colleagues in supporting a variety of resolutions to call out the Iranian government for its atrocious actions and to hold it accountable through sanctions. I want to once again condemn Iran specifically for the human rights abuses. In the past year, Iranian citizens have been denied the freedom to peacefully assemble, the freedom of speech, with hundreds of protesters killed by Iranian security forces. I will continue to speak out against Iran and stand up for the Iranian people."

Gov. Tom Ridge, first U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security: "The mullahs and Rouhani oversee the Central Bank of terrorism. We have discovered that their embassies have become branch banks. In those embassies, they stimulate chaos and anti-government activities... As we have said during this three-day summit, it's time for the world to embrace regime change, to recognize the NCRI, this incredible organization led by a leader [Mrs. Maryam Rajavi] who has been able to generate global support for her vision for a peaceful and non-nuclear Iran, which promotes gender equality and separation of church and state. I am very proud to be part of this group of NCRI supporters that grows larger every day.."

Former Senator Robert Torricelli (D-NJ): “[The July 17 summit] was an extraordinary event... The reaction from Tehran told us all we really needed to know. The vitriol against the MEK, Maryam Rajavi in particular, all the rest of us and all of you, is the evidence we needed that we are on track, that the MEK is on their minds, and a growing, looming threat to the regime. To me, it was a confirmation of everything that we’ve been fighting for and evidence that this final chapter, the freeing of Iran, is at hand... In another time, in another place, an attempt of that magnitude [Tehran’s plot to bomb NCRI’s 2018 Free Iran gathering], on that number of people, consciously, would be seen as an act of war... How can the governments of Western Europe not take similar actions, knowing that an attempt was made on the lives of their highest ranking officials and a peaceful democratic assembly in the heart of France?”

Ambassador Robert Joseph, former U.S. Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security: “For the mullahs, terror is a way of life. It has been so from the outset. Terror is embedded in the regime’s DNA, and it is its future as it has been its past... Iranian diplomats have repeatedly been implicated in terrorist plots abroad, including in the U.S. and particularly in Europe... Three important steps: We must assume the regime will continue to implement terrorism. It is wrong to think that the regime will someday conform to international norms. At the operational level, we need to work closer on law enforcement and information sharing. We must sanction individuals and institutions. When there is evidence embassies are involved in terrorism, they must be shut down, whether in Tirana, Vienna, or elsewhere. At the strategic level, counterterrorism must be a central element of the maximum pressure campaign against the mullahs’ terrorism.”

General George Casey, 36th Chief of Staff of the United States Army: “I firmly believe this regime will be a profoundly destabilizing force in the region and the world as long as it remains in power... Iran uses the Quds Force to destabilize countries. I firmly believe that [Tehran] is actively using terror to accomplish its objectives. This is a problem not only for its people, but for the international community. This regime will not change and will remain a destabilizing force as long as it remains in power. It can’t be a productive player. Change must come to Iran.

Ambassador Marc Ginsburg, former U.S. Ambassador to Morocco: Iran regime is a danger to the world. The NCRI offers hope in an agenda of freedom, liberty, and economic change in Iran that would finally end the long nightmare that the regime has inflicted on the world since it came to power in 1979... As this event continues, those of us supporting the aspirations of Madam Rajavi and the NCRI will find even more strength and fortitude to be able to lend more help to the Iranian people.”

Ambassador Adam Ereli, former U.S. Ambassador to Bahrain & Deputy State Department Spokesman: “The MEK has done a great deal for the people of Iran and for the world. But the greatest testimony to your effectiveness is the fact that the Iranian regime hates you so much... Those who support you in the U.S. and Europe also testify to your power... The MEK has been exposing this conspiracy of terror by the government of Tehran over many years. And this is why not only have they tried to destroy you inside Iran, but they have also tried to demonize you outside of Iran. They have tried to convince governments that MEK is an outlaw organization and has no support inside Iran. But the fact that they are saying this, is proof that the opposite is true... The power of Iran lies in its people, and the friends of Iran and MEK need to do everything they can to support the people and

opposition movements like the MEK, who are at the frontlines of trying to build a peaceful Iran along the lines of Madam Rajavi's 10-point plan."

Former Congressman Ted Poe (R-TX): "Thank you Madame Rajavi for your leadership. History will record you as one of the people in all of human history who stood up for freedom... The embassies are being used as a spying network, as forward operating bases for the IRGC. We must not allow that to occur anywhere in the world. They must be closed down. We are allowing a foreign terrorist enemy into our homes. Close them down now... The mullahs must go. The regime is about to topple. And we must help the people of Iran do that. The mullahs' plague is worse than the coronavirus. We must fight this plague."

Representative Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX): "It is important to condemn human rights violations in Iran. I support the 10-point plan of Madam Rajavi to support a free, democratic, and nuclear-free Iran. I support Albanian officials who expelled the Iranian regime terrorists from their land. I urge Albania to close the Iranian embassy. We must stand united and recognize that the Albanian government is good in its desire and by taking the courageous step to host the MEK... We are looking for a time when the leadership of Iran will be one that is democratic, secular and supportive of freedom. We should never stand away from justice, equality and freedom for everyone. I support your efforts for democracy."

Representative Tom McClintock (R-CA): "What you are doing will assure peace and security of the world against the Iranian regime. There is one issue that still unites the American people, and that is the work you are doing... The regime is abusing its power, suppressing its people, and threatening the world. We in the U.S. Congress believe that shutting down the Iranian regime's embassy in Albania will make all Albanians more secure... The U.S. stands squarely with the freedom-loving people of Iran and must show leadership against the tyranny of the ayatollahs. The arms embargo against the regime must be extended and snapback sanctions reinstated... The American people and freedom-loving people around the world are inspired by your courage and stand by your struggle."

Senator John Boozman (R-AR): "Friends and participants at the July 2020 Free Iran Global Summit, I support the efforts of the Iranian people to bring change and democracy to their country... The U.S. remains committed to democracy, human rights, civil liberties, and the rule of law, and supports the Iranian people in their calls for a democratic government that respects these rights and freedoms."

Representative Ted Deutch (D-FL): "Thousands of Iranians have suffered arrest and death for standing up against the regime of Iran. We support the people's struggle against the Iranian regime... Our resolution [H.Res 752] condemns the Iranian regime's human rights abuses and calls on all democratic governments to unequivocally support the Iranian people's basic need for human rights."

Representative Tom Emmer (R-MN): "I was proud to cosponsor a resolution in the U.S. House of Representatives, which condemns Iranian state-sponsored terrorism, and expresses our support for the Iranian people's desire for a democratic, nonnuclear republic in Iran."

Representative David Trone (D- MD): "The people of Iran deserve a government of their choosing. The protests in November 2019 were a legitimate expression of grievance against

the government. My colleagues and I strongly condemned human rights abuses by the Iranian regime. The Iranian regime pursues its own corrupt interests in the region instead of acting in the interests of its people.”

Senator Todd Young (R-IN): “We need an Iran that supports the people, not a regime of tyrants, of clerics who don’t value human rights and the dignity of all human beings. We need an Iran that is brought into better behavior. I support sanctions against the Iranian regime because of their human rights abuses, their export of terrorism and fundamentalism. I will continue to stand with you for a free Iran.”

Representative Ralph Norman (R-SC): “Democracy is a treasure that must be fought for. We support freedom-loving Iranians. We have imposed sanctions on the regime of terror and its agents. I am troubled by the suppression of protesters who have stood up for their freedom in Iran. Here in Congress, we have taken important steps to support the pro-democracy movement... We must not forget that the Iranian government’s hatred of liberty is not just domestic, but is part of the regime’s global network of terror.”

Representative Donald Payne Jr. (D-NJ): “These events are critical to keeping alive the movement for freedom and democracy in Iran. Iranians are among the most educated people on earth. They’re one of the youngest populations in the Middle East... That is why summits like this one are so critical to a free Iran. They remind the world that the current government does not speak for the people, that Iranians are committed to the ideals of democracy like free speech, public assembly, and fair elections, that human rights are universal rights sought by every people and nation on earth.”

Representative Don Bacon (R-NE): “America stands with the freedom-loving people of Iran. The Iranian government killed 1,500 peaceful protesters in November 2019. [Iran’s regime is] the world’s largest exporter of terror. They’re undermining their neighbors... In fact, we know that Iran’s intelligence is tracking and targeting Iranian dissidents throughout the world. And that must stop. Our goal is to have a freedom-loving Iran that is nuclear free and respects its neighbors.”

Representative Tim Burchett (R-TN): “The Iranian government can’t be trusted. They sponsor terrorism and suppress their citizens, escalate tensions in the region. I support your quest for freedom.”

Representative Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL): “The United States stands with the Iranian people for a free, democratic and non-nuclear Iran. They have the right to choose their leaders. They deserve absolute, total freedom. And I stand with this cause.”

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Leading Experts Call for Reimposition of All UN Sanctions on Iran, Side with Iran's People Seeking Change

NCRI-US policy webinar also focuses on the regime's regional aggression, assassination of dissidents abroad, missile and nuclear programs, and domestic crackdown

WASHINGTON, DC, August 21, 2020 — On Wednesday, August 19, 2020, the U.S. Representative Office of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI-US) hosted a panel of leading national security experts to discuss the necessity of reinstating UN sanctions on the Iran regime. Entitled “IRAN: The Imperative to Reimpose UN Sanctions,” the panel focused on various aspects of the grave risks to regional and global peace and security if the United Nations arms embargo on the Iranian regime, due to expire in mid-October, is not extended. In that context, they discussed the strategic necessity of reimposing all UN sanctions on Tehran. The policy webinar also focused on the Iranian regime's regional aggression, whether direct or through proxy militias, its terrorism, assassination of dissidents abroad, missile and nuclear programs and domestic crackdown on the Iranian people.

Former Undersecretary of State for Global Affairs, Ambassador Paula Dobriansky; former Undersecretary of State for Arms Control and International Security, Ambassador Robert Joseph; former Acting Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, David Shedd; and Director of the Global Strategy Initiative at The Atlantic Council, Georgetown professor Matthew Kroenig, were the panelists. Deputy Director of the NCRI-US and author of *The Iran Threat*, Alireza Jafarzadeh, moderated the online event, viewed by several hundred observers from across the United States on ZOOM, as well as via livestream on the NCRI-US twitter account.

In his opening remarks, Alireza Jafarzadeh explained that “Iran has been facing the COVID-19 pandemic since February. More than 90,000 people have died in some 400 cities. Now, instead of allocating resources to saving the lives of the Iranian people when they need it the most, the Iranian regime over the past six months has provided at least 400 million dollars to Hezbollah in Lebanon. In contrast, it has allocated only 300 million dollars to fighting the pandemic for Iran's population of 85 million.” He added that “the mullahs pay their mercenaries in the region an average of \$1,000 per month, while the highest paid nurses are paid only \$200 per month.”

The panel's first speaker, David Shedd, enumerated a long list of the regime's malign actions. Pointing to “the priorities that the regime has in terms of exporting the revolution at the expense of the people of Iran,” he stressed, “As I've looked around the region and beyond in terms of Iranian activities, I've come away with three principles that I've observed. The first principle is good behavior on the part of the international community has not been matched by the Iranian regime's response in changing its behavior. I would

argue that they have continued on the path of really challenging the international order regardless of what has been given to them in the negotiation of the JCPOA.

“The second principle is that the Iranian regime rules with a despotic hand when it comes to the interests of the Iranian people... [The third principle is that] it has made alliances of sorts with Russia, with the Chinese, and obviously with North Korea when it comes to their missile program, and other bad actors around the globe as well, at the expense of the United States’ interests and those of countries with democratic values.

“Ultimately, the sanctions that have been applied in the last three-plus years under the Trump administration are taking effect and are creating the pressure points that we need to see that change in behavior, because of those three principles’ not being observed in terms of the international community and the role that Iran should be playing as a responsible nation in the world.”

In his response to a question about the impact of the call by the Iranian Resistance to disband the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), the former Acting Director of the DIA said, “Having watched the IRGC and the Quds Force for over 30 years as an intelligence matter, I can assure the audience that the regime itself cannot survive without it. In the sense that it is the epitome on which the regime operates.”

Ambassador Dobriansky, discussing “the question of Iran in the geopolitical context,” explained, “In the context of our national security interest in the Middle East, Iran certainly figures prominently, and of course, the reason for that is there is unity of purpose in terms of Russia, China, and Iran and that it is engaging in malign activities that literally undermine, not only our national security interest, but also that of our allies and friends in and throughout the Middle East.”

Referring to regional efforts “in countering Iran’s hegemonic desires throughout the Middle East and its direct support for terrorists,” she stressed that “all of these countries view Iran as a direct threat, and rightly so. It’s worth noting that the UN Secretary General actually cited and stated how Iran was responsible for the missile attack on Saudi oil sites last year, and how it funds and supplies proxy forces like Hezbollah which have killed Americans in Iraq. Removing the arms embargo would give Iran an even more free hand to destabilize the region by exporting terror in support of its hegemonic interest, and clearly, this alignment is a crucial one, certainly in terms of our own policy calculation.”

The former Undersecretary of State for Global Affairs also analyzed the significance of the Iranian regime’s despicable human rights record and systemic crackdown on dissidents and protesters in formulating a sound and effective policy toward Tehran. “It underscores the need for moving forward with the maximum pressure campaign and also the deployment and the snapback of sanctions... Last November, we know that there were massive protests that took place in Iran, through all the provinces of Iran and over some hundred cities and towns. Here lethal force had been used to suppress and kill actually hundreds of innocent protesters, injuring thousands. The State Department has reported that there were some 1,500 who were killed in these protests... A second area is the area of executions. It’s very striking in this case, according to the U.S. State Department report, that as many as 60% of executions are kept secret.”

Responding to a question, Amb. Dobriansky underscored the role of social media in exposing the regime's human right violations and bringing attention to the situation inside Iran, explaining "there is great interest because of this geostrategic competition that we see." Describing the protests against human rights violations and the "scale and scope of corruption that has existed in the regime," she emphasized, "what's happening in Iran, to the people of Iran, is absolutely unacceptable and there has to be change. People are seeking change in Iran."

The next speaker, Prof. Matthew Kroenig, explained that the administration has a clear strategy toward the rogue regime in Tehran, the maximum pressure strategy, and that it has succeeded in constraining Tehran's resources, making it more difficult to fund its nuclear program, missile program, and destabilizing regional activities. "I was an opponent of the Iran nuclear deal. I thought it didn't go far enough in addressing Iran's enrichment capabilities and other things. But I do give the Obama administration credit. The snapback provision was quite clever. It's essentially a kind of reverse Security Council veto. Normally, it's the permanent members who have the ability to veto new measures, and in this case it was essentially reversed that the permanent members have to vote to extend sanctions relief against Iran and if any of them vetoed, then the sanctions immediately snap back, and so the United States is within its rights to snap back these sanctions. I think this was one of the cleverer aspects of the deal, and we shouldn't let it go to waste."

In response to a question concerning the fragility of the "autocratic regime" in Iran, Prof. Kroenig noted that such regimes "don't have good processes for succession. They often are plagued with problems of internal crises of succession, political instability, regime collapse, civil war. So, just looking where this U.S. and Iran rivalry is going, I suspect that is a likely outcome [for the regime] and that at some point it will collapse. There will be some new regime in Iran. These are just the weaknesses of autocracies that we've seen throughout history, and I do think the regime now is under really unprecedented levels of pressure, if you look at the economic numbers, if you look at the protests."

The last speaker, Ambassador Robert Joseph described how "the regime has taken billions of dollars that it gained from the agreement [JCPOA] and what hasn't been siphoned off through corruption has been used to expand its support for terrorism, its aggression abroad, and the repression of its own people. But the central problem is not the JCPOA, as fundamentally flawed as it is. The problem is the regime, a regime that cannot reform or cannot become more moderate. It is a regime that will never abandon its support for terrorism or its use of terror as a tool to achieve its objectives."

Ambassador Joseph added, "We must not throw the regime a lifeline by pursuing new fatally flawed agreements in exchange for more old false promises. We must deny the regime any legitimacy simply by telling the truth and keeping the focus on its reign of terror over the past 40 years. The recent House of Representatives resolution, with wide bipartisan support, is an important step, as are the growing calls to hold members of the regime responsible for their crimes against humanity. Iran's leaders know that they have lost all legitimacy. The Iranian people have now become the greatest threat to the regime. The mass killings in the street across Iran are acts of a desperate and dying regime. Expressions of support for those in Iran seeking democracy, statements from our President, from the Secretary of State, and from others are important because they uphold human

rights as a principle of U.S. policy, and they add to the pressure on the regime. Most importantly, we must support the democratic opposition outside and inside Iran. We know that regime change must come from within, and we know that regime change will come from within.”

Responding to a question about the prospects for change in Iran, Ambassador Joseph said, “What we see today in Iran is the struggle and the sacrifice of the people against a brutal dictatorship, a struggle that has cost tens of thousands of lives over the past 40 years. I believe that the end of this struggle is approaching. I can argue that it’s best seen in the desperate acts of a corrupt and repressive regime at war with its own people, and its own people are the first and foremost victims of the regime, a regime whose time has come.”

Addressing the role of the Iranian opposition, Ambassador Joseph said, “I think we need to prepare for the end of that regime. Here I would emphasize the importance of the NCRI in particular, whose platform calls for a secular, non nuclear, and democratic Iran. Outside of Iran, NCRI has mobilized international opinion in Europe, in the United States, in Asia based on opposition to the regime, political opposition and moral opposition, to the regime. Inside Iran, the MEK has organized resistance units that have led the demonstrations that we’ve talked about in the panel discussion, last November, since then in January, and it’s the organized force, it’s the best means of providing for a peaceful transition to a free and democratic Iran. Iran is not Libya. The future of Iran is not as a failed state. All you need to ask yourself at the end of the day is, why does the regime consider and declare the MEK and the NCRI to be public enemy number one? Just ask yourself. I think considering the source, that’s a badge of honor.”

In closing the conference, Alireza Jafarzadeh displayed the book of victims fallen for freedom, which contains 20,000 names and particulars of those executed by the Iranian regime. He reminded everyone about the summer of 1988, when 30,000 political prisoners, mostly belonging to the MEK, were executed. None had been sentenced to death. Based on an order by then Supreme Leader Khomeini, they were slaughtered just because they wanted freedom.

He summed up by saying, “Over the past four decades, the regime in Iran has maintained its rule through sheer repression at home, the export of terrorism, development of nuclear weapons, creating chaos in the region, and its missile program.

“The termination of the six 2015 UN Security Council resolutions did not convince Tehran to abandon the nuclear weapons program, did not change the behavior of the Iranian regime internally or externally. All the concessions given as a result of the JCPOA further empowered the regime, and its terrorism has escalated in Europe. The lessons learned over the past four decades really taught us that the only effective approach is a firm policy, and decisiveness. Any kind of concessions will further embolden the Ayatollahs.

“As Ms. Rajavi, the President-elect of the National Council of Resistance of Iran, has said, and I quote, ‘This regime must not be allowed to acquire even a single bullet. It must not pocket profits from a single barrel of Iranian oil, and it must not spend even a single dollar from revenues that belong to the Iranian people for its survival.’

“We have been calling for the re-imposition of all of the six previous UN Security Council resolutions on the Iranian regime. Under no circumstances, no lifting of the arms embargo and no relief should be provided to the Iranian regime.

“Finally, to end the threat of the Iranian regime, there is only one solution, that is regime change by the people of Iran. Just think about it. What a difference it would make, not just for the region, but for the whole world, if Iran were free, if Iran were democratic, if Iran were to separate religion from state, respect the rights of its neighbors, and support peace in the Middle East. Not developing nuclear weapons, not building those missiles that are only used to create chaos and mayhem in the region, and not supporting terrorism. That is the kind of Iran that the people of Iran want. That is why they were chanting in the streets of Tehran and other cities: ‘Leave Syria alone; think about us,’ “Neither Gaza, nor Lebanon, I give my life for Iran.’ They are saying, ‘The enemy is right here (meaning the mullahs); they lie when they say it is America.’”

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IRAN: Panel Makes Case To Reimpose UN Sanctions, Says Iranian People's Struggle for Change is Key to Lasting Peace

NCRI-US's new book: A cogent policy framework for the strategic necessity of reimposing sanctions

WASHINGTON, DC, August 27, 2020 — On Wednesday, August 26, 2020, the U.S. Representative Office of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI-US) hosted a panel of leading national security experts to discuss the necessity of reinstating UN sanctions on the Iran regime. Entitled “IRAN: Reimposing UN Sanctions,” the panel focused on various aspects of the impact on regional and global peace and security if the United Nations arms embargo on the Iranian regime, due to expire in mid-October, is not extended. A new book published by the NCRI-US, “IRAN: The Imperative to Reimpose UN Sanctions,” was released at this webinar.

The panelists discussed the strategic necessity of reimposing all UN sanctions on Tehran in light of the Iranian regime's regional aggression, whether direct or through proxy militias, its terrorism, assassination of dissidents abroad, missile and nuclear programs and domestic crackdown on the Iranian people.

Ambassador Joseph DeTrani, former Director of the National Counterproliferation Center and Special Adviser to the Director of National Intelligence; Ambassador Marc Ginsberg, former Ambassador to Morocco and former White House Middle East advisor for President Carter; and Michael Pregent, senior fellow, Hudson Institute, were the panelists. NCRI-US Deputy Director and author of *The Iran Threat*, Alireza Jafarzadeh, moderated the online event, viewed by several hundred observers from across the United States on ZOOM, as well as via livestream on the NCRI-US twitter account and website.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Jafarzadeh introduced the NCRI-US's new publication, “IRAN: The Imperative to Reimpose UN Sanctions,” saying that the 110-page book “contains details of the outlaw behavior of the Iranian regime, ... demonstrating basically that the issue of reimposing all of the UN Security Council resolutions is actually a must. It's a necessity based on the facts on the ground.”

He added that allowing unrestricted sales and purchases of “arms to a regime with this kind of a nature, is actually feeding terrorism and actually feeding the mayhem that's been created in the region... Over the past two years, there has been an upsurge in terrorist operations in the West, including in Albania, Denmark, France, Germany, Turkey, and the United States. This is all in the past two years. At the time when the Iranian regime actually needed Europe the most, they stepped up their terror operations on European soil.”

Mr. Jafarzadeh then read over the back cover of the NCRI-US's new book with quotations from a statement by Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, the President-elect of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI), which was issued on July 14, 2015, shortly after JCPOA was finalized. Mrs. Rajavi said at the time that:

“Circumventing six UN Security Council resolutions, an unsigned agreement will not close the mullahs’ path to deception and access to nuclear bomb.

“Had the P5+1 been more decisive, the Iranian regime would have had no choice but to fully retreat from and permanently abandon its efforts to acquire nuclear weapons. The P5+1 should now insist on evicting the regime from the Middle East and prevent its regional meddling.

“The money poured into the regime’s coffers must be placed under strict United Nations monitoring to ensure that it addresses the Iranian people’s urgent needs ... Otherwise, Khamenei will use these funds to further the policy of export of terrorism and fundamentalism in Syria, Yemen and Lebanon as well as to fill the coffers of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps.

“Any agreement that disregards and fails to underscore the Iranian people’s human rights will only embolden the regime in its suppression and relentless executions, abuse of the rights of the Iranian people, and violations of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the UN Charter.”

Referring to last week’s announcement by Secretary of State Michael Pompeo that “13 officials involved in a brutal and intricately planned assassination carried out in Switzerland in 1990 as part of Iran’s ongoing worldwide terrorism campaign” have been blacklisted, Mr. Jafarzadeh said, “Although the case of the assassination of Professor Kazem Rajavi took place 30 years ago, it’s very encouraging that eventually those assassins are being designated and their names have been published by the United States government.”

The panel’s first speaker, Ambassador DeTrani, reminded viewers that even after the JCPOA agreement, Tehran’s malign behavior expanded and continued: “Whether it’s in Lebanon, whether it’s in Yemen, whether it’s in Iraq, whether it’s in Syria. Hezbollah, Hamas proxies of the IRGC’s Quds Force were out there, perpetrating terrorist acts.

“With October 18 and the lifting of the arms embargo coming up, what will Iran do with the weapons they will then purchase and the weapons that they will then sell to their proxies?... There are six resolutions out there and [Iran’s regime] must understand that it cannot get away with bad behavior. And indeed, in the final analysis, it hurts the people of Iran... The people of Iran are the key issue here. Because indeed the regime that’s supporting these proxies is not caring for the people of Iran. Because we see that through demonstrations, we see through other manifestations and that’s where the focus needs to be. And hopefully the international community comes together and says enough! Enough with your exporting of terrorism, enough with the threats of nuclear weapons and nuclear proliferation!”

Explaining what “the regime did under the protections of the JCPOA,” Michael Pregent said, “In 2015, when there was sanctions relief, the Iranian people never saw the economic benefits of that deal. Instead, the regime created new militias in Iraq, began to provide lethal aid to the Houthis in Yemen, began to move Iraqi militias and Quds Force officers to Syria to prop up the Assad regime.”

The Middle East analyst added that “this regime, in its 40-year history, does not own Iran’s history, does not own Iran’s culture, does not own what Iranians think about their futures... But it’s also important to call out our allies and our geo-political foes for supporting a regime that wants to continue to destabilize the region. The Iranian people are against this regime and for the first time in Iraq all ethnic sects, the Shias, the Sunnis and the Kurds, are against Iran’s interference. We were seeing what’s happening in Lebanon. Soleimani built a land bridge under the protections of the Iran deal before the president walked out, and the protesters have occupied that land bridge from Tehran to Baghdad to Beirut and that’s important. Snapback sanctions are a tool to test the resolve of our allies. If they don’t go along, the United States still has a whole host of things they can do unilaterally. The United States has not even done maximum pressure yet. There’s so much more we can do.”

The last speaker, Ambassador Marc Ginsberg, told the panel that the regime has “not only a 40-year record of terrorism; it also has a 40-year record of subjugating and repressing its own public. We tend to forget how many times tens of thousands of innocent Iranians have been murdered by this regime in order to maintain its power. How much money has gone into the coffers of its leadership, the kleptocracy of the theological revolutionary dictatorship that this regime represents. And how ill-advised we are at times thinking that the Iran nuclear deal is going to result in a change of attitude by the regime.”

The former US envoy to Morocco added that “the bet that [Iran would moderate its behavior because of sanctions relief] was rolled by President Obama was meant to see whether or not this could occur. That in fact the regime would change its attitude and would moderate and become a responsible player. Well look, it didn’t happen. And it’s important for my fellow Democrats to acknowledge that... There are case after case of terrorism committed against the Iran opposition leaders. Just two years ago, the Iranian regime dispatched agents to blow up the MEK and NCRI leadership in Paris. These agents who were arrested were on their way to in effect bomb the site outside Paris where many Americans had come... Denmark has expelled Iranian diplomats who were planning and plotting terrorism, and the same holds true for Albania, where Iranian agents have tried to blow up and to commit terrorism.”

In closing, Mr. Ginsberg stressed, “We need a new alliance between the United States and Europe to achieve what the Iranian people need, not what the regime needs in order to sustain itself. We need a covert campaign of diplomatic, humanitarian and economic support to empower opposition leaders like [NCRI President-elect] Madam Rajavi and the NCRI. And if anyone was able to see this huge number of people who traveled from all over the world [in 2018] to the Paris convocation, then you would understand the support that this opposition has, both in and out of Iran.”

Alireza Jafarzadeh closed the session by saying that “the 2015 termination of the provisions of the six UN Security Council resolutions has not prevented the regime from striving to

obtain the bomb, nor has it tamed its malign behavior externally or inside Iran. To the contrary, Tehran escalated its nuclear violations, heightened its regional aggression, stepped up terrorism in Europe and the United States, and cracked down on its population in Iran. The experience over the past four decades has shown that the clerics ruling Iran only understand the language of firmness and decisiveness. Therefore, building more pressure on the regime is indispensable to confronting its terrorism and aggression, as well as its attempts to obtain nuclear weapons.”

The NCRI-US Deputy Director added that Maryam Rajavi has repeatedly said, “This regime must not be allowed to acquire even a single bullet. It must not pocket profits from a single barrel of Iranian oil. And it must not spend even a single dollar from revenues belonging to the people for its own survival... It is for this reason that we, on behalf of the people of Iran, reiterate our long-standing call for the reimposition of the six UN Security Council resolutions sanctioning the Iranian regime. Under no circumstances should this outlaw regime be allowed to purchase or sell weapons.”

Mr. Jafarzadeh went on to say that “To end the Iranian regime’s threat, the world must recognize the right of the Iranian people to rise up against their ruthless rulers. Instead of giving concessions, the regime’s leaders must be put on trial in international tribunals for the massacre of 30,000 political prisoners in 1988, the murder of 1,500 protesters in November 2019, and the terror plots against and the assassination of Iranian dissidents abroad.”

Mr. Jarfarzadeh stressed that “When the State Department designated, just last week, the 13 assassins of Professor Kazem Rajavi for killing the most renowned human rights champion of Iran some 30 years ago in Geneva, in broad daylight, the message was clear: There is no statute of limitations for serving justice. That is why that designation should be coupled with designating the Supreme leader, Ali Khamenei; the current president, Hassan Rouhani; the former Minister of Foreign Affairs whose embassy was used for this murder, Ali Akbar Velayati; and the Intelligence Minister at the time, Ali Fallahian, who masterminded this cold-blooded murder. They must all be put on trial for crimes against humanity. By holding the regime’s leaders to account, the world can pave the way for the free Iran millions of Iranians are calling for. A free Iran contributes to world peace.”

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IRAN: Panel Says UN Must Reinstate Sanctions

Cites Tehran's Malign Regional Conduct, Terrorism, Nuclear Violations since JCPOA

WASHINGTON, DC, September 11, 2020 — On Thursday, September 10, 2020, the U.S. Representative Office of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI-US) hosted a panel of leading national security experts and former officials to discuss the strategic necessity of reinstating UN sanctions on the Iran regime. Entitled “IRAN: New IAEA Report, Terrorism, Belligerence & Need to Restore UN Sanctions,” the panel discussed the disastrous repercussions for regional and global peace and security if the United Nations arms embargo on the Iranian regime, due to expire in mid-October, is not extended.

The panelists addressed the various aspects of Tehran’s regional aggression, whether direct or through proxy militias, its terrorism, assassination of dissidents abroad, missile and nuclear programs and domestic crackdown on the Iranian people. The list of major violations in the damning new IAEA report on Tehran’s commitment to its nuclear obligations was also a central topic of discussion.

Ilan Berman, Senior Vice President at the American Foreign Policy Council and author of Iran’s Deadly Ambition: The Islamic Republic’s Quest for Global Power; Steven P. Bucci, visiting fellow at The Heritage Foundation and former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense & Defense Support of Civil Authorities; Kirsten Fontenrose, Director of Scowcroft Middle East Security Initiative at the Atlantic Council and former Senior Director for Gulf Affairs in the National Security Council; and Alireza Jafarzadeh, NCRI-US Deputy Director and author of The Iran Threat, were the panelists. Jafarzadeh also moderated the online event, live streamed on the NCRI-US social media platforms and website.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Jafarzadeh recalled that the sunset clauses in the JCPOA and UNSCR 2231 to gradually ease arms, missile, and nuclear restrictions on the Iranian regime, were based on the notion that the regime’s behavior would gradually change. Over the past five years, however, the Iranian regime’s behavior has not changed and the resolution has not prevented Tehran from striving to obtain the nuclear bomb in violation of its own commitments.

“If anyone is surprised why the stockpile of enriched uranium, according to the latest IAEA report, is now 10-fold higher than what is allowed under UNSCR 2231, they need to take a look at the three-decade pattern of nuclear cheating by this regime. The cheating occurred before, during and after the JCPOA, and continues as we speak.”

At the conclusion of his opening remarks, the NCRI-US Deputy Director shared a presentation, entitled “Iranian Regime’s Pattern of Cheating,” on specific cases of nuclear cheating, as well as lies over the span of three decades to hide the true extent of its secret nuclear program, particularly its military dimensions. He offered specific details on the regime’s elaborate hide-and-cheat operations in several cases which the NCRI exposed relying on information provided by the Resistance’s network inside Iran. These sites are, Kalaye Electric, exposed in February 2003; Lavizan-Shian, exposed in May 2003; METFAZ, exposed in 2009; and the Research Center at Parchin, exposed in 2017. Tehran’s most recent hide-and-cheat case is the Abadeh nuclear weapons site.

The panel’s first speaker, Mr. Ilan Berman, analyzed the findings of the new IAEA report, saying, “There has been a massive expansion of Iran’s low enriched uranium stockpile. As you, Alireza, pointed out in your presentation, Iran now has 10 times the legal limit that is set out in the JCPOA. There is also evidence that Iran is installing new advanced centrifuges at its Natanz facility, that it has restarted its heavy water reactor activities, and that it is actively blocking access to IAEA inspectors. That last part has been remedied in recent days, partially, but there are still lingering doubts, as there have been throughout this whole process, about the inability of the international community to see the grand sweep of Iran’s nuclear program. So, the estimated breakout time that experts have concluded from reading this new report is that Iran is significantly closer to what could be called a nuclear breakout, to a situation where Iran can reach a threshold nuclear capability. That window has now narrowed to something like three and a half months, according to organizations like the Institute for Science and International Security.”

Mr. Berman also discussed the current debate at the UN Security Council about the United States’ legal right to call for “snapback” of all UN sanctions, saying: “You can go back and look at the language of the JCPOA itself, and the parallel UN resolutions that were passed, but the legal language is very clear that the participants, the original participants to the 2015 nuclear deal have the right to say that Iran is not in compliance with its provisions and have the right to ask for a snapback, and the United States has done so... The IAEA findings come amid this debate over snapback, and that makes it increasingly difficult for the UN to simply maintain the status quo, to assume that the U.S. doesn’t have a case to be made.”

He explained that “next week, September 19th, once 30 days have passed from the initial U.S. submission of the request for snapback, the international community can either act or the U.S. can act unilaterally. There is a great deal that the United States can do unilaterally. There are provisions of the 2017 CAATSA Act, the Countering of America’s Adversaries through Sanctions Act, that have not been applied yet, that can be applied unilaterally . . . There is a tremendous amount more that the U.S. can unilaterally do to increase pressure on Iran and impose costs on Iranian behavior.”

Responding to a question about the views of people in the streets of Iran toward the regime and the international sanctions, Mr. Berman explained that “it’s necessary to understand that what we’ve seen over the last two and a half years since December of 2017 in terms of the protests, in terms of the social uprisings, the persistent unrest that you’ve seen on the Iranian street represents a fundamental rejection, not of international pressure, but of the Iranian regime itself... Candidly speaking, what we’re seeing over the last two years is much more profound. It has much more staying power and activates more levels, more

strata of Iranian society. The Iranian regime was given a little bit of breathing room this year as a result of the coronavirus pandemic ... but in recent weeks, you've seen those protests re-emerge because the underlying dissatisfaction with the Iranian regime, with its stewardship of the country, with the fact that it consistently prefers guns over butter, it doesn't provide money for grassroots prosperity, it provides money for foreign adventures, all of that is there, sort of baked into the protests that you're seeing on the Iranian street... The conditions within Iran are being amplified by international pressure, but the primary grievance is internal to Iran. It is a grievance between the Iranian people and the regime itself, and I think that's necessary to point out."

The next speaker, Ms. Kirsten Fontenrose, opened her remarks by debunking the fallacy among some analysts which effectively makes light of the lifting of the arms embargo by arguing that Tehran "does not have the funds or the inclination to acquire large weapons systems and will therefore not pose a greater threat to its neighbors or the world." She said: "This analysis ignores three things. First, Iran has flirted with the purchase of Russian S-400s or S-500s, national level combat systems. Second, that Iran's primary foreign policy tool is the deployment of armed proxies. Arming and equipping small, unconventional militias requires troop-level combat systems, and lifting the embargo will make it easier for Iran to acquire and transfer weapons it currently must smuggle. Third, that Iran's modus operandi is to upgrade the components of existing weapons systems instead of acquiring new ones, so the intended strategy may not be to procure large systems, but to amend what they already have, with leap-frogged technologies."

The former National Security Council director stressed that "Tehran has demonstrated a preference for supporting the IRGC above other priorities" and is "committed to extra-territorial destabilization of the region... Iran has protected its proxy and ballistic missile programs from the slow starvation suffered by other sectors under sanctions. It is predictable that the regime will continue to move funds from other budgets to purchase additional weapons if they are permitted to do so by the international community ending the embargo."

Saying that "Europe should investigate whether IRGC plans like the Paris bomb plot of June 2018 will be more dangerous if the IRGC has access to advanced weaponry," she added that "if the embargo is not extended, the US will apply sanctions on any company that provides even a screw to the Iranian domestic weapons manufacturing sector. So, companies across the world that sell to IRGC front companies involved in arms trade or manufacturing will be unable to do business."

Ms. Fontenrose concluded her remarks stressing that "as long as the regime in Tehran is able to exploit the differences in opinion between American and European interlocutors, they will continue to push the limits of international law."

Lauding the NCRI-US for hosting the series of panels on the "threats posed by the Iranian regime" and the imperative to reinstate UN sanctions, the last speaker, Mr. Steven Bucci, told the panel that "the Iranian regime conducts foreign policy and diplomacy by terror... Their main way of conducting business with the community of nations is through terror. They will use their proxies to do the dirty work all over the world, to assassinate people, to threaten regimes and try to destabilize governments... The IRGC Quds Force is almost unique in its role in foreign affairs. The only real analog to it are my old enemies,

the Soviet Spetsnaz, who were deployed around the world, working with other countries to do the same things, to assassinate, to destabilize regimes, to be that outreach of the Soviet government. The Quds Force does the same thing for Iran now, even with the elimination of General Soleimani, who was really the force behind it and many experts opine that he was actually the most powerful guy in Iran because of what he did and how he did it and the influence that he had.

“The elimination of Soleimani was an incredible victory for the oppressed people of Iran, for the Muslims across the region, as well as any country that loves freedom and wants to see this kind of behavior stopped. He was not a diplomat. As a military leader sent into a foreign country and then directing offensive actions in that country, he was a legitimate and legal target when he was eliminated... This man was playing a role that made him a legitimate target and he was in fact eliminated for that reason.”

The former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense concluded his remarks by saying that “We have not exerted maximum pressure on Iran. There is a lot more we could do. We really need to squeeze them now, more than we ever have before, particularly with the evidence that they completely ignored the restrictions on their nuclear program, they’ve ignored the restrictions on their ballistic missile programs, and they’ve never stopped doing the terror part of it. All three of those areas need to be targeted by us, using economic and diplomatic means for now, but with an eye on the fact that if those don’t work, we’re going to have to take it to the next step.”

Alireza Jafarzadeh closed the session by saying that since the JCPOA agreement in 2015, “the malign behavior of the regime externally or inside Iran has not been tamed. To the contrary, the Iranian regime, in addition to being in significant non-performance with its nuclear commitments, has heightened its regional aggression, stepped up terrorism in Europe and the United States, and cracked down on its population in Iran.

“We have seen a sharp rise in the Iranian regime’s violations of human rights in Iran, as a number of protesters who were arrested over the past two years are now under torture. Amnesty International’s new report states the regime created a torture epidemic, including extracting protesters’ fingernails, electric shocks, waterboarding, forced injections, and mock executions. Some have already been sentenced to death, like the decorated wrestler, Navid Afkari, a clear sign that the vulnerable regime is afraid of its own population, who seek nothing but a free Iran.

“The experience over the past four decades has shown that concessions only embolden the regime. Therefore, building more pressure on the regime is indispensable to confronting its terrorism and aggression, as well as its attempts to obtain nuclear weapons.

“Instead of giving arms to the IRGC, that entity along with its Qods Force must be disbanded. The mullahs already have an army of their own, and the money and resources of the IRGC should go to improve the lives of the Iranian people, not to mention fighting the COVID-19 pandemic which has taken the lives of more than 100,000 Iranians in over 400 cities across Iran.

“It is for this reason that we, on behalf of the people of Iran, reiterate our long-standing call for the reimposition of the six UN Security Council resolutions sanctioning the Iranian

regime. Instead of arguing in favor of the regime, the world must recognize the right of the Iranian people to rise up against their ruthless rulers. Instead of giving concessions, the regime's leaders must be put on trial in international tribunals for the massacre of 30,000 political prisoners in 1988, the murder of 1,500 protesters in November 2019, and the terror plots against and assassinations of Iranian dissidents abroad. By holding the regime's leaders to account, the world can pave the way for a free Iran.

“Imagine a free Iran, where the ballot box is the only criteria for legitimacy, people can speak freely, there is gender equality, there is separation between mosque and state, where the nation would call for peace and co-existence with the neighboring countries instead of funding terror, and where the resources are used for the prosperity of the people instead of nuclear weapons.”

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IRAN: Murder of Navid Afkari Shows Regime's Fear of Uprising, Fuels Resolve To Overthrow Clerics

Appeasement emboldens Tehran's suppression of dissidents

WASHINGTON, DC, September 15, 2020 – The religious dictatorship ruling Iran barbarically executed an Iranian wrestling champion, Navid Afkari, 27, on September 12, 2020, despite worldwide appeals by governments, including the United States, parliamentarians, human rights organizations, and world sports organizations. Afkari was executed after being brutally tortured for participating in a 2018 uprising in Iran. His brothers, Vahid and Habib, were also arrested and sentenced to prison terms of 54 and 27 years, respectively.

The regime's intelligence agents, terrified at the prospect of unrest, compelled the Afkari family to bury their loved one shortly after his execution in secrecy, under excessive security measures, in his village of Sangar, near the southern city of Shiraz.

The hurried murder of Afkari prompted outrage inside Iran among people of all walks of life, and utter disgust globally. The outpouring of calls to hold the regime accountable and implement punitive measures for its savage execution of a peaceful protester – forced to confess after days of torture – clearly shows how isolated Tehran has become in the eyes of the world as the embodiment of cruelty and utter disregard for human life.

In the days prior to Afkari's murder, Mrs. Maryam Rajavai, the President-elect of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI), said: "The vicious tortures inflicted on Navid Afkari and his brothers are outrageous. I call on everyone to rise in support of the Afkari brothers and convey their voice and the Iranian people's cry for freedom throughout Iran."

Mrs. Rajavi urged the United Nations Security Council, the Secretary-General, the UN High Commissioner, and the Human Rights Council as well as the European Union to take immediate action to secure the release of the Afkari brothers and all prisoners of conscience in Iran.

President Donald Trump appealed for the death sentence to be commuted, saying the wrestler's "sole act was an anti-government demonstration on the streets." The State Department's spokesperson, Morgan Ortagus, stated that "We join the world in outrage at the Iranian regime's death sentence for Navid Afkari, who was tortured into giving a false confession after participating in peaceful protests in 2018. The regime also tortured his two brothers and sentenced them to decades in prison. Let them go!"

Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) tweeted that “Iranian wrestler #NavidAfkari, who defended the rights of his people, has been sentenced to death. This is an outrage & the entire world should demand his immediate release. We continue to witness the evilness of the regime in Tehran, which continues to violate the rights of Iranians.”

American sports organizations also expressed alarm and pleaded for a stay of Afkari’s execution. Dana White, President of the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC), said on his Instagram channel, “This week the New York Times wrote a story about a very famous wrestler from Iran. His name is Navid Afkari, and he went to a peaceful protest in Iran and he’s going to be executed for that.” White pleaded for authorities to “spare his life.”

On September 8, the World Players Association, a global union representing 85,000 athletes, called for the regime’s expulsion from world sport if it executed Afkari, saying he was “unjustly targeted.”

Before his execution, a voice recording from inside prison was released, in which Afkari said: “If I am executed, I want you to know that an innocent person, even though he tried and fought with all his strength to be heard, was executed.”

Following the shocking news of his execution, NCRI President-elect Rajavi stated that “The people of Iran, especially the courageous youth, will not remain silent vis-à-vis the savage execution of this brave son of Shiraz, and will rise up in solidarity with the heroic people of Fars Province over his unjust execution. The religious dictatorship ruling Iran cannot survive for even one day without suppression, execution, and torture. By shedding the blood of the brave children of Iran, such as Navid, it seeks to preserve its rule in the face of the Iranian people’s uprising. But Navid’s martyrdom will only add fuel to the flames of the Iranian people’s uprising, and will strengthen their determination to overthrow the clerical regime and to establish freedom and democracy.”

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo stated: “The Iranian regime’s execution of Navid Afkari is a vicious and cruel act. We condemn it in the strongest terms. It is an outrageous assault on human dignity, even by the despicable standards of this regime. The voices of the Iranian people will not be silenced. Today we stand with the family of Navid Afkari, and all Iranians, in mourning his death at the hands of this brutal and merciless regime. His life, and his death, will not be forgotten.”

Democratic presidential nominee, Vice President Joe Biden, tweeted, “Iran’s cruel execution of Navid Afkari is a travesty. No country should arrest, torture, or execute peaceful protesters or activists.”

In a tweet, Senator Marco Rubio wrote, “The execution of wrestling champion Navid Afkari for simply exercising his right to freedom of expression should remind the world that the clerical regime which governs Iran is barbaric, cruel & evil.”

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres strongly condemned the execution, while in Geneva, U.N. human rights experts condemned the execution as the latest “in a series of death penalty sentences handed down in the context of protests” in Iran. “Such flagrant disregard for the right to life through summary executions is not only a matter of domestic

concern,” said the U.N. experts’ statement on September 14th. “We call on the international community to react strongly to these actions by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

“The execution of Navid Afkari was summary and arbitrary, imposed following a process that did not meet even the most basic substantive or procedural fair trial standards, behind a smokescreen of a murder charge,” the UN experts said.

Germany’s Foreign Ministry said in a tweet that the German ambassador in Tehran, Hans-Udo Muzel, had called the Iranian regime’s Foreign Ministry to again “express the German government’s position in the case of Iranian athlete Navid Afkari, and its horror over the carrying out of the death sentence.” Earlier in the day, the embassy had tweeted that it was “deeply surprised” at the execution, suggesting that Afkari was executed as part of the regime’s efforts to “silence opposing voices.”

“Appalled by the execution of Navid Afkari by Iranian authorities,” Danish Foreign Minister Jeppe Kofod condemned the act. Swedish Foreign Minister Ann Linde declared that her country is “appalled by reports of the execution of Iranian wrestler Navid Afkari.”

International Olympic Committee president Thomas Bach said he was “shocked” that Afkari had been executed despite “direct personal appeals to the Supreme Leader and to the President of Iran this week.”

United World Wrestling issued a statement: “It is deeply upsetting that the pleas of athletes from around the world and all the behind the scene work of United World Wrestling and the National Iranian Wrestling Federation, the IOC together with the NOC of Iran did not achieve our goal. The news is devastating and the entire wrestling community mourns his death.”

Well-known athletes also reacted with outrage and disgust. Renowned UFC lightweight wrestler Bobby Green was visibly shaken at the news, and had to stop his post-match interview, saying “I thought we were going to be able to save him. He just lost his life? Somebody just lost their life for protesting? That just messed me up.”

In a letter to the UN Secretary-General, eight Nobel laureates condemned the execution and the regime’s use of torture. Their letter stated in part, “We are gravely concerned that executions and torturing of prisoners are continuing in Iran unabated. Years of impunity and appeasement have emboldened the ruling theocracy to perpetrate such heinous crimes.”

Amnesty International declared that “The secret execution this morning of wrestling champion Navid Afkari, without prior notice to him, his family or lawyer, after a grossly unfair trial, is a horrifying travesty of justice that needs immediate international action. Before his secret execution, Navid Afkari, 27, was subjected to a shocking catalogue of human rights violations and crimes, including enforced disappearance; torture and other ill-treatment, leading to forced ‘confessions’; and denial of access to a lawyer and other fair trial guarantees.”

Considering the impunity with which the leadership and all officials of the religious dictatorship in Iran carry on suppressing Iranian dissidents and protesters who seek justice and democracy,

- The execution of Navid Afkari must be condemned in the strongest terms. Silence and inaction would further embolden the regime, and put at risk several other young Iranians similarly sentenced to death recently.
- There must be accountability in the strongest terms. Iran's human rights dossier must be referred to the UN Security Council. Afkari's death is only the latest in a series of killings since 1981. Over 120,000 have been killed for their beliefs, including 30,000 political prisoners who were massacred in 1988.
- The international community must take urgent action to release the Afkari brothers, other detained protesters, and all political prisoners who are in danger of being executed.
- The United Nations Security Council and its member states, and all international human rights authorities need to take practical, effective measures against the regime in Iran for the execution of Navid Afkari and all others executed on political grounds.
- Following several rounds of nationwide uprisings which shook the regime to its foundations, the ruling clerics intend to instill fear and kill hope among the youth of Iran. Therefore, the right of the Iranian people must be recognized to change their repressive ruling regime and establish a free, democratic, and non-nuclear republic at peace with its neighbors.

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These materials are being distributed by the National Council of Resistance of Iran-U.S. Representative Office. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.



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Bipartisan US Lawmakers, Distinguished Policy Figures Voice Support for a Free Iran

At Trans-Atlantic summit, NCRI President-elect Maryam Rajavi outlines three pillars of an effective policy vis-a-vis the theocratic regime.

WASHINGTON, DC, September 25, 2020 — Days before the start of the annual session of the United Nations General Assembly, an online global event, “Trans-Atlantic Summit on Iran Policy, Time to Hold the Iranian Regime Accountable,” was held on September 18, 2020, which brought together Iranians from 10,000 locations around the world. The summit was broadcast live into Iran and livestreamed on Twitter and Facebook in five different languages.

A focus of the summit was the strategic necessity of reinstating all UN sanctions on Tehran as long as its barbaric suppression of protesters and terrorism and belligerence continues. The summit also focused on supporting the Iranian’s people’s Resistance and uprisings to bring about democratic change.

A bipartisan array of members of the US Senate and House of Representatives, as well as distinguished personalities were joined by parliamentarians from across the Atlantic, calling for a free Iran and support for a new path toward peace and security. More than 30 US lawmakers addressed the summit, including senators Ted Cruz (R-TX), Bob Menendez (D-NJ), Roy Blunt (R-MO), Marco Rubio (R-FL), Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), Rob Portman (R-OH), Martha McSally (R-AZ), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), Ron Johnson (R-WI), and Representatives Tom McClintock (R-CA), Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-TX), Ted Yoho (R-FL), Tom Emmer (R-MN), Judy Chu (D-CA), Paul Gosar (R-AZ), and Dan Crenshaw (R-TX).

Former New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani; General James Jones, first National Security Advisor to President Obama; General Jack Keane, former Vice-Chief of Staff of the United States Army; Hon. Newt Gingrich, former Speaker of the House; former senators Joseph Lieberman (D-CT), Robert Torricelli (D-NJ), and Kelly Ayotte (R-NH); and Ambassador Robert Joseph, former Undersecretary of State for Arms Control and International Security; also addressed the conference.

From Europe, Hon. David Jones and Hon. Bob Blackman, senior members of the United Kingdom’s House of Commons; Hon. Giulio Terzi, former Foreign Minister of Italy, and Hon. Pandeli Majko, former Prime Minister of Albania, spoke.

Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, the President-elect of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI) was the summit’s keynote speaker. In her opening remarks, she paid tribute to Navid Afkari, an Iranian wrestling champion recently executed by the regime, adding:

“Faced with executions and massacres, the people of Iran urge the United Nations and the U.N. Security Council, in particular, to restore the snapback sanctions stipulated in six U.N. resolutions against the clerical regime in Iran. Otherwise, Khamenei will continue to ravage the nation, as his regime’s survival depends on murder and suppression. If Khamenei were to stop executions, he would lose control of the situation, and uprisings simmering in the depths of Iranian society would erupt and overthrow the mullahs’ religious fascism.”

The NCRI President-elect continued: “What we say is this: Boycott the clerical regime. Boycotting the regime helps the fight against terrorism, against suppression and against corruption. Every single dollar given to the regime will turn into a bullet that is fired into the hearts of youths in Iran, Iraq, Syria and Yemen... Our people do not want uranium enrichment plants. Neither do they want a ballistic missile program, nor the regime’s criminal wars... There must be an end to the wrongheaded international policies that in practice aid the murderers of the Iranian people, allowing the religious fascism to violate the rights of the people of Iran and spread war and terrorism in the Middle East.”

In closing, Mrs. Rajavi outlined three pillars of an effective policy vis-a-vis the theocratic regime: human rights for all the people of Iran, comprehensive sanctions against the religious dictatorship, and recognition of the Iranian people’s Resistance and struggle for freedom.

Highlights of remarks by some of the speakers at the summit, which was emceed by Ms. Trish Regan, include:

SENATOR ROY BLUNT, CHAIR OF THE REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE: Iran has simply increased its destructive activities after the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, the JCPOA, did not work. Strengthening sanctions is an appropriate response to Iran’s continued aggression. We need to be concerned about the daily attacks on the people of Iran who, through their uprisings, their protests and strikes, have been seeking regime change. And we really see an escalation of those protests in the last two years.

SENATOR TED CRUZ, FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE: Iran’s tyrannical and evil regime continues to finance and export terror, endangering the lives of Americans and the national security of both us and our allies. By using our existing authority to invoke the snapback sanctions mechanism, we have taken a necessary step to counter Iran’s aggression, to deny the regime resources and to significantly slow the development and deployment of Iran’s nuclear program.

SENATOR BOB MENENDEZ, RANKING MEMBER, FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE: While in Congress we may have differing approaches about the best way to address the threat from Iran, rest assured that we remain united against the regime’s fundamental abuses against its citizens, oppressing and denying fundamental rights to women, jailing peaceful activists, threatening journalists. Moreover, we stand united in our efforts to prevent Iran from continuing to export its ideology in the form of terrorist actors and destabilizing activities. And we are united in preventing Iran from being able to threaten her neighbors and the world with a nuclear weapon.

SENATOR MARCO RUBIO, ACTING CHAIRMAN OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE: This battle, your battle, our battle, is not simply to keep Iran from

getting a nuclear weapon, not simply to keep Iran from continuing to sponsor terrorism—this is all very important—the real battle is to give Iran back to the Iranian people so they can reclaim the greatness of an extraordinary civilization and once again be the home of a peaceful country in which people from all different backgrounds live together and contribute to the world.

SENATOR JEANNE SHAHEEN, FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE: The regime denies its people the right to freedom of assembly, expression and association. I'm an original sponsor of legislation [S.Res.539] that expresses support for the rights of the people of Iran to determine their own future and condemns the Iranian regime for its crackdown against legitimate protests.

SENATOR ROB PORTMAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS: The people of Iran deserve better than a government that spends its scarce resources on proxy forces and terrorism instead of domestic priorities.

SENATOR MARTHA MCSALLY, ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE: The U.S. and the international community must continue to hold Iran accountable for its human rights violations and reprehensible behavior. Our world cannot be stable while the number one sponsor of terror continues to operate.

SENATOR KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND, ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE: It is a privilege to send greetings to everyone attending the Summit to Support a Free Iran. I also send my regards to each of today's speakers, who are joining in this important effort to support democracy and freedom for the Iranian people.

SENATOR RON JOHNSON, CHAIRMAN, HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE: For decades, Iran has cracked down on dissenters and peaceful protestors. Navid Afkari is one of the latest victims of Iran's brutal regime. The United States condemns his execution and continues to stand with the people of Iran.

REP. TOM MCCLINTOCK, JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: Iran's rulers are beginning to fear the resistance. The Iranian opposition to the regime, the National Council of Resistance of Iran, is steadily gaining momentum and has thus become the main target of the regime's global terrorists. Dozens of the Iranian regime's so-called diplomats as well as its agents have been expelled or jailed by European nations, including Belgium, France, Albania, as well as the United States, for their terror plots, particularly against NCRI officials.

REP. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE, HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE: I rise to be able to support the fighters in Iran for human rights, and to stand with those like Madam Rajavi, who want human rights, and the fight against the abuses, the horrible abuses that people are facing in Iran who just simply want justice, equality and human rights. I'm standing with the message of Mrs. Rajavi, that we want freedom.

REP. TED YOHO, FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE: We must remember those who have given their lives in the past for a free Iran and a better future for their children, especially the 30,000 political prisoners who lost their lives in the 1988 massacre. To the people of Iran, please know that America stands with you in wanting to provide a better life, free

from oppression and fear, and we strongly support the fundamental rights of all Iranians to the rights and liberties that all should be free to enjoy.

REP. JUDY CHU, WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE: Today, we remember the thousands of political prisoners who were massacred in Iran in 1988, simply for having the courage to express their political opinions. But even decades later, Iran refuses to acknowledge the killings or even tell the families where their loved ones are buried. That is because many of those responsible are still in power today, and Iran's mullahs are continuing to oppress their people and export terror.

REP. LANCE GOODEN, FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE: I support the 10-point plan that Madam Rajavi has put out, as I know all of you do... And I also want to encourage people of Iran fighting oppression, to stay strong and know that you have friends around the world who believe in you and in a free Iran.

REP. PAUL GOSAR, OVERSIGHT AND REFORM COMMITTEE : House Resolution 374, of which I'm an original sponsor condemns Iranian state sponsored terrorism, and expresses support for the Iranian people's desire for a democratic, secular, and non-nuclear republic of Iran. We are working hard in support of Mrs. Maryam Rajavi and her vision for Iran's future.

REP. DAN CRENSHAW, HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE: We cannot allow the Ayatollah and his corrupt government to continue these atrocities against the Iranian people. And that's why 220 of my colleagues and I have joined Representative Tom McClintock's House Resolution 374 to condemn the regime's sponsorship for terrorism, and support the Iranian people's desire for a free Iran.

MAYOR RUDI GIULIANI: There must be an end to the regime's destructive meddling in the activities of other countries in the region and terrorism all throughout the world. The MEK or the NCRI present a dramatic democratic alternative to this regime of terror. They have a government-in-waiting that can take Iran through the transition. Iran is deathly afraid of Madame Rajavi's whole vision for a future Iran. Madame Rajavi wants to have a free Iran.

HON. NEWT GINGRICH: The distance we have to go to Mrs. Rajavi's dream of a unified, peaceful, democratic Iran, an Iran that is back as part of the world of nations that are free, an Iran where people can freely travel to and from the country, that dream still has a lot of work to turn it into reality. I commend each of you for being personally involved. I want you to know that this kind of patriotism, this kind of dedication, is what is necessary if we are to defeat dictatorships.

GENERAL JAMES JONES: There should be more isolation of the leaders of Iran. They should not be welcomed in countries that support freedom and democracy. We must support the Iranian people. We must support the NCRI and the people of Iran. They are the ones who will topple the regime. They will usher in a new era for the history of Iran. I am deeply appreciative of the leadership of Madam Rajavi and her Jeffersonian ten-point plan.

GENERAL JACK KEANE: I join my American colleagues in fully supporting your resistance movement, your drive for a free Iran, your willingness, under the leadership of Maryam Rajavi, to inspire the people of Iran and the people around the world by vividly bringing to the world's attention the struggle of the Iranian people for their freedom.

SENATOR JOSEPH LIEBERMAN: I'm a Democrat, and you know how long has been my support of freedom for the people of Iran and opposition to this regime. There are many more like me in the Democratic party. You've seen Democratic members of Congress address you today... So, you have bipartisan support in Congress. Once the Iran regime falls, the beneficiaries will not just be the people of Iran who will finally be given their freedom, and the NCRI will play a leading role in bringing that about.

SENATOR KELLY AYOTTE: The mullahs must go. And we know there is an alternative. Mrs. Rajavi and the NCRI, your ten-point plan presents a great alternative for the Iranian people, one that envisions a peaceful, democratic country and a future based on universal suffrage, gender equality, freedom of speech, separation of religion and state, and of course a non-nuclear Iran. Sanctions should be implemented, and I believe also that there is a bipartisan consensus in the U.S. Congress.

AMBASSADOR ROBERT JOSEPH: Let me begin by thanking our friends at Ashraf 3 who are with us today. You and your brothers and sisters inside Iran, the resistance units, are the true beacons of freedom. For over a generation, you have endured unspeakable suffering at the hands of the regime, as you stood up for your values—democracy, human rights, equality of the sexes, and a secular republic, where sovereignty resides with the people, not with the corrupt ruling class.

HON. GIULIO TERZI: I regret the present European attitude on Iran... Serious pressure must be exerted on the Iranian regime. The regime in Tehran must understand that it will pay a heavy price. A true European deterrence is needed.

HON. DAVID JONES: The coming debate in the UN General Assembly offers an opportunity for the UK and the US to press for the continuation of those sanctions, encouraging other nations to follow the principled approach based on a hard-headed response to the reality of the situation in Iran and not to follow appeasement, by adopting a firm resolve to hold the regime's leaders to account at an international level for past crimes against humanity and current the people of Iran, and the pro-democracy movement that's led by Madame Rajavi, supporting a viable Iranian-made solution to the current regime in Tehran.

HON. BOB BLACKMAN: Appeasing the theocratic leaders in Tehran by overlooking their breaches of their obligations under the Nuclear Deal will not bring about moderation or reforms to the benefit of the Iranian people. The international community should agree to and establish an independent international inquiry into the 1988 massacre of 30,000 political prisoners... The time has come to stand with the people of Iran and their resistance movement, the NCRI, and its leader, Madame Rajavi.

HON. PANDELI MAJKO: The Mujahedeen [MEK] and Madame Rajavi, the woman of peace, are the alternative for a lasting peace between East and the West. In the future, they may turn into an alternative for internal dialogue in Iranian society. Their survival keeps hope not only for freedom in Iran but also for the relationship between East and West.

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Panel Discussion: Extension of the UN Arms Embargo, Internal Situation in Iran, and U.S. Policy of Maximum Pressure

WASHINGTON, DC, August 12, 2020 — On Wednesday, August 19, 2020, at 10:00 am EDT, the U.S. Representative Office of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI-US) will host a virtual panel comprised of leading national security experts. Panelists will discuss Iran-related topics, including the extension of the UN arms embargo, the human rights situation inside Iran, and the U.S. policy of maximum pressure.

The United States and many other nations have stated their full support for an extension of the UN arms embargo, due to expire in October. Should the embargo be lifted, Tehran would be able to purchase, supply, sell, or transfer “any battle tanks, armored combat vehicles, large caliber artillery systems, combat aircraft, attack helicopters, warships, missiles or missile systems.”

Meanwhile, reports from Iran indicate that the regime has stepped up the repression of Iranian citizens, including the recent execution of a young man for his participation in anti-regime protests. Tehran greatly fears the recurrence of such uprisings.

Speakers:

- Ambassador Paula Dobriansky, former Undersecretary of State for Global Affairs; Senior Fellow, Harvard University Belfer Center; Vice Chair, Scowcroft Center for Strategy and Security, The Atlantic Council
- Ambassador Robert Joseph, former Undersecretary of State for Arms Control and International Security; former Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Proliferation Strategy, Counterproliferation and Homeland Defense
- Professor Matthew Kroenig, Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University; Deputy Director, Scowcroft Center for Strategy and Security, and Director, Global Strategy Initiative, The Atlantic Council
- David Shedd, former Acting Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency; former Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Intelligence Programs and Reform; visiting fellow, The Heritage Foundation
- Alireza Jafarzadeh, Deputy Director, Washington Office, The National Council of Resistance of Iran; Author, The Iran Threat

Following the panelists' remarks, there will be a Q&A segment for the attendees.

DATE & TIME: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 – 10:00 a.m. EDT

RSVP is required. To REGISTER for the webinar, please CONTACT media@ncrius.org.

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Virtual Briefing on Iran: Reimposing UN Sanctions

New report to be released

WASHINGTON, DC, August 24, 2020 – On Wednesday, August 26, 2020, at 11:00 am EDT, the US Representative Office of the National Council of Resistance of Iran ([NCRI-US](#)) will host a webinar consisted of leading national security experts to discuss the strategic necessity of the arms embargo as well as the reimposition of all prior UN Security Council resolutions on the Iranian regime.

The panel will examine the rise in Tehran's belligerent and malign activities at home and abroad.

NCRI-US will also release a report, *IRAN: The Imperative to Reimpose UN Sanctions*, which chronicles the rogue behavior of the Iranian regime as well as the consequences of any sanction relief.

Speakers:

[Ambassador Joseph DeTrani](#), former Director of the National Counterproliferation Center and Special Adviser to the Director of National Intelligence

[Ambassador Marc Ginsberg](#), former Ambassador to Morocco, former White House Middle East advisor for President Carter

[Michael Pregent](#), senior fellow, Hudson Institute

[Alireza Jafarzadeh](#), deputy director, Washington office, The National Council of Resistance of Iran; Author, *The Iran Threat*

Following the panelists' remarks, there will be a Q&A segment for the media.

Date & Time: Wednesday, August 26, 2020; 11:00 a.m. EDT

RSVP is required. To REGISTER, contact: media@ncrius.org

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Iran Policy Panel to Discuss New IAEA Report, Terrorism, Belligerence & Need to Restore UN Sanctions

WASHINGTON, DC, September 9, 2020 – On Thursday, September 10, 2020, at 11:00 am EDT, the U.S. Representative Office of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI-US) will host a virtual panel with leading national security experts to discuss the IAEA's new report, and the rise in Tehran's belligerent and malign activities at home and abroad.

The panel will also address the strategic necessity of restoring all prior UN Security Council sanctions on the Iranian regime.

Speakers:

- Ilan I. Berman, Senior Vice President, American Foreign Policy Council; author, Iran's Deadly Ambition: The Islamic Republic's Quest for Global Power
- Steven P. Bucci, Visiting fellow, The Heritage Foundation; Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense & Defense Support of Civil Authorities
- Kirsten Fontenrose, Director, Scowcroft Middle East Security Initiative, The Atlantic Council; Former Senior Director for Gulf Affairs, National Security Council
- Alireza Jafarzadeh, Deputy Director, Washington Office, National Council of Resistance of Iran; author, The Iran Threat

Following the panelists' remarks, there will be a round table discussion and a Q&A segment for the media.

Date & Time: Thursday, September 10, 2020; at 11:00 am EDT

RSVP is required. To register please contact: media@ncrius.org

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VIRTUAL POLICY BRIEFING – An Effective Iran Policy: Sanctions or No Sanctions?

WASHINGTON, DC, October 8, 2020 – On Wednesday, October 14, 2020, at 11:00 am EDT, the U.S. Representative Office of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI-US) will host a virtual panel with leading national security experts to discuss the key features of an effective Iran policy.

The panel will address Tehran's regional conduct, its nuclear non-compliance, and the volatile state of Iranian society, to which the regime has responded with arrests and executions of protesters.

PANELISTS:

- Ambassador Eric Edelman, former Under Secretary of Defense for Policy
- Ambassador Robert Joseph, former Undersecretary of State for Arms Control and International Security
- James Jay Carafano, Vice President, Kathryn and Shelby Cullom Davis Institute for National Security and Foreign Policy at the Heritage Foundation
- Jonathan Ruhe, Foreign Policy Director at JINSA's Gemunder Center for Defense and Strategy
- Alireza Jafarzadeh, Deputy Director, Washington Office, National Council of Resistance of Iran; author, *The Iran Threat*

Following the panelists' remarks, there will be a round table discussion and a Q&A segment for the media.

Date & Time: Wednesday, October 14, 2020; 11:00 am – 12:30 pm EDT
For media inquiries, please contact: media@ncrius.org

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PRESS CONFERENCE: NCRI-US to Reveal Iran Regime's New Nuclear Bomb-Making Facility

WASHINGTON, DC, October 14, 2020 – The U.S. Representative Office of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI-US) will hold an online press conference on Friday, October 16, 2020, at 10:30 am to unveil details on a new nuclear facility in Iran, including satellite imagery and key officials involved.

The new and alarming intelligence on the status of the Iranian regime's nuclear bomb-making has been received from the Mujahedin-e Khalq (MEK) network within Iran.

Over the past two decades, the NCRI has exposed some of the most important sites and centers of Tehran's nuclear weapons program, including the Natanz uranium enrichment and Arak heavy water sites (August 2002), Kalaye electric centrifuge assembly and testing facility (February 2003), Lavizan-Shian sites (May 2003), Fordo underground enrichment site (December 2005), Organization of Defensive Innovation and Research, SPND (July 2011), and METFAZ's Pazhouheshkadeh at Plan 6 in Parchin (April 2017).

Date & Time: Friday, October 16, 2020; 10:30 am EDT

RSVP is required. Please contact: media@ncrius.org to receive the ZOOM registration link for the press conference

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PRESS RELEASE

JUNE 5, 2020

The following should be attributed to [Alireza Jafarzadeh](#), deputy director of the Washington office of the National Council of Resistance of Iran.*

“The recent reports by the IAEA, is a clear indication that Tehran never abandoned its nuclear weapons program, despite the JCPOA. This regime should have never been allowed any enrichment capabilities, nor provided any ability to do nuclear-related research and development under any pretexts.

“All pathways of the Iranian regime to fissile material must be irreversibly blocked and the ballistic missile program, the purpose of which is to carry a nuclear warhead, must be entirely dismantled.

“The Iranian regime must be immediately referred to the United Nations Security Council for significant non-performance, triggering the snapback of all UN sanctions on the Iranian regime.”

#

* Alireza Jafarzadeh first revealed the existence of the nuclear sites in Natanz and Arak in August 2002, which triggered the IAEA inspections of Iranian nuclear sites. He was the target of a terror plot by the MOIS whose members were arrested in [August 2018](#) and [sentenced](#) in 2019.



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PRESS RELEASE **JUNE 17, 2020**

The following should be attributed to [Alireza Jafarzadeh](#), deputy director of the Washington office of the National Council of Resistance of Iran.*

“The H.Res 374, goes beyond all previous Congressional resolutions on Iran. It not only provides a comprehensive scope of threats posed by the Iranian regime, the resolution, most significantly, also provides a realistic solution, a strategic framework which at its core relies on the support for the Iranian people’s movement to overthrow this regime as a prerequisite for a democratic, secular republic in Iran.

“It was encouraging to see that this resolution sponsored by a House Majority has also addressed the terror plot in the U.S. against our movement. But we should not rest until the entire terror and spying network of the Iranian regime is dismantled here in the United States and elsewhere.

“The fact that eight of the ten diplomats or agents of the Iranian regime expelled or jailed in Europe and the U.S. for terror plots over the past two years, were tied to operations against our movement, attests to the reality that the NCRI is the alternative and an existential threat to this regime.

“Congress has spoken with one voice, a bipartisan voice, declaring that a free and democratic Iran is the prerequisite to eliminating terrorism and Islamic fundamentalism in the world.

“Despite all the efforts by the Iranian regime and its lobbies to exploit the political situation in the United States, this strong bipartisan voice by 221 House members speaks to the legitimacy of the Iranian people’s desire to unseat their ruthless rulers and establish democracy in Iran.”

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PRESS RELEASE

JUNE 19, 2020

The following should be attributed to [Alireza Jafarzadeh](#), deputy director of the Washington office of the National Council of Resistance of Iran.*

“The adoption of the resolution by the IAEA Board calling on the Iranian regime to fully cooperate with the IAEA is a clear indication that Tehran has been in non-compliance with the implementation of its NPT Safeguards Agreement and Additional Protocol.

“The IAEA resolution proves what we already knew, i.e., Tehran never abandoned its nuclear weapons program, despite the JCPOA. This regime should have never been allowed any enrichment capabilities, nor provided any ability to do nuclear-related research and development under any pretexts.

“The past five years since the implementation of the JCPOA should be enough to show the world that the Iranian regime’s nuclear and missile program has always been about building a nuclear warhead.

“The world now has another opportunity to irreversibly block all pathways of the Iranian regime to fissile material as well as ending its R&D to develop a nuclear weapon.

“The next logical step after the adoption of the IAEA resolution is the snapback of all United Nations sanctions on the Iranian regime, envisioned in the UNSC Resolution 2231.”

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* Alireza Jafarzadeh first revealed the existence of the nuclear sites in Natanz and Arak in August 2002, which triggered the IAEA inspections of Iranian nuclear sites. He was the target of a terror plot by the MOIS whose members were arrested in [August 2018](#) and [sentenced](#) in 2019.



National Council of Resistance of Iran U.S. Representative Office

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PRESS RELEASE

JUNE 24, 2020

The following should be attributed to [Alireza Jafarzadeh](#), deputy director of the Washington office of the National Council of Resistance of Iran.*

“The Iranian regime has conducted terrorism with impunity, that explains why the Iranian regime has maintain the title of "the world’s worst state sponsor of terrorism" for over three decades. Tehran has not been held accountable, now is to time to make the Iranian regime pay for its terrorism and crimes against humanity.

“This report proves the extended arm of the Iranian regime’s terrorism in Europe and beyond the Middle East.

“The full collaboration of the Ministry of Intelligence, the Foreign Ministry, and the IRGC in conducting terror, is a clear indication of systematic and institutionalized terrorism as a central tool of its statecraft.

“The fact that most of the terrorism of the Iranian regime in Europe has been directed against the main Iranian opposition movement, signals Tehran’s extreme vulnerability inside Iran and its fear of overthrow, especially in light of the several waves of uprisings since 2018.

“The United States and European nations should call for the closure of the Iranian regime’s embassies in Europe, particularly in Albania where several Iranian regime “diplomat” terrorists, including its ambassador were expelled for their involvement in terror plots.

“On June 17, 2020, a House resolution, H.Res.374, co-sponsored by a House majority (221 members) called “on relevant United States Government agencies to work with European allies, including those in the Balkans, where Iran has expanded its presence, to hold Iran accountable for breaching diplomatic privileges, and to call on nations to prevent the malign activities of the Iranian regime’s diplomatic missions, with the goal of closing them down, including the Iranian embassy in Albania.”

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* Alireza Jafarzadeh first revealed the existence of the nuclear sites in Natanz and Arak in August 2002, which triggered the IAEA inspections of Iranian nuclear sites. He was the target of a terror plot by the MOIS whose members were arrested in [August 2018](#) and [sentenced](#) in 2019.



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PRESS RELEASE JUNE 26, 2020

IRGC Brig. Gen. Davood Abdi, the Director-General of public relations of the clerical regime's Ministry of Defense and Logistics, claimed, "Around 11:30 PM or mid-night, a gas tank in the general area of Parchin exploded. The fire department extinguished the ensuing fire."

The following should be attributed to [Alireza Jafarzadeh](#), deputy director of the Washington office of the National Council of Resistance of Iran.*

"Tehran's claim that the midnight explosion was a gas-tank explosion in the general area of Parchin is a sheer lie. Eyewitnesses in Hamamk and the village of Nik, who are the closest to the area from the eastern side of the point of the explosion, said what they witnessed contradict this claim. Specifically, most windows of homes in the neighboring villages were shattered, and some walls suffered cracks. A number of the residents were killed or wounded, and the Red Crescent went to the location to help.

"The massive explosion took place in the section designated for the production of ammunition, in particular ballistic missiles warheads."

As a background, in a press conference on April 21, 2017, in Washington DC, NCRI exposed 12 plans and secret projects of the regime in Parchin and called on the UN inspectors to inspect the site. They were:

1. Plans 1, 2, 3, 6 (Zeioldin), and 8 (chemical industries);
2. Plans 4, 11, Cruise industries;
3. Plan 5, ammunition industries;
4. Plans 7, 9, 11, 12 (missile and aerospace industries); and
5. Plan 10, air defense system (Sayyad Shirazi and Babaie Industries).

Previously, on November 7, 2014, the NCRI revealed that the regime had set up two explosive chambers that were used in high explosive tests in the nuclear weapons projects in Parchin.

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PRESS RELEASE AUGUST 19, 2020

The following should be attributed to [Alireza Jafarzadeh](#), deputy director of the Washington office of the National Council of Resistance of Iran.*

Regarding the announcement today that the United States intends to notify the U.N. security council to restore virtually all of the previously suspended United Nations sanctions on Iran, Alireza Jafarzadeh, deputy director of the National Council of Resistance of Iran's Washington office, said:

“Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, the President-elect of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI), has repeatedly said, ‘This regime must not be allowed to acquire even a single bullet. It must not pocket profits from a single barrel of Iranian oil. And it must not spend even a single dollar from revenues that belong to the Iranian people for its own survival.’

“To this end, the Iranian Resistance reiterates its long-standing call for the reimposition of the six UN Security Council resolutions sanctioning Iran. Under no circumstances should this outlaw regime have unrestricted access to purchase or sell weapons.

“Despite the JCPOA and all the concessions provided to the Iranian regime, the mullahs never abandoned their nuclear weapons program. On the contrary, Tehran escalated its nuclear violations, heightened its aggressive behavior in the region, stepped up terrorism in Europe and the United States - particularly against the Iranian Resistance, and cracked down on its population in revolt in Iran.

“The lessons of the past four decades have taught us that an effective and productive policy against the clerical regime must be based on firmness. Denying the kleptocracy access to resources and opportunities, and preventing it from obtaining economic and political concessions, are indispensable to confronting its terrorism and aggression, as well as its attempts to obtain nuclear weapons.”

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PRESS RELEASE SEPTEMBER 2, 2020

The following should be attributed to [Alireza Jafarzadeh](#), deputy director of the Washington office of the National Council of Resistance of Iran.*

Regarding the release of Amnesty International's report today about mass arrests, disappearances, and torture since Iran's November 2019 protests, Alireza Jafarzadeh, deputy director of the National Council of Resistance of Iran's Washington office, said:

“What you see in Iran today is the continuation of crimes against humanity, which began with the mass executions of political prisoners in 1981, climaxed in the 1988 massacre of 30,000 political prisoners, and most recently the killing of more than 1,500 protesters in the November 2019 uprising.

“What has been reported about the arrest, imprisonment, torture, and murder of the participants in the November 2019 uprising in Iran is only the tip of the iceberg. The vicious tortures inflicted on those arrested during the protests are outrageous.

“Now is the time for the long-overdue accountability for the perpetrators of crimes against humanity in Iran.

“As Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, the president-elect of the National Council of Resistance of Iran, has stated, the United Nations Security Council, the Secretary-General, the UN High Commissioner, and the Human Rights Council as well as the European Union to take immediate action to secure the release of all prisoners of conscience in Iran.”

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PRESS RELEASE SEPTEMBER 17, 2020

The following should be attributed to [Alireza Jafarzadeh](#), deputy director of the Washington office of the National Council of Resistance of Iran.*

Regarding the announcement of the U.S. Department of Treasury today imposing sanctions on “Cyber Actors Backed by Iranian Intelligence Ministry,” Alireza Jafarzadeh, deputy director of the National Council of Resistance of Iran's Washington office, said:

Today’s announcement by the U.S. Department of the Treasury imposing sanctions on cyber entities in Iran affiliated by the Ministry of Intelligence and Security (MOIS) for targeting Iranian dissidents, journalists, and international companies, is a welcome measure.

The Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corp (IRGC), and the MOIS, have been using their cyber departments for years to cyber-suppress Iranians and undermine the opposition. These efforts were escalated after the onset of nationwide protests in late December 2017 and was peaked during November 2019 uprising. The protesters’ use of cyber technology has proved to be the regime’s Achilles’ Heel.

The regime’s cyberwarfare is primarily led by the IRGC, which works closely with the cyberwarfare sections of the Ministry of Intelligence (MOIS). IRGC’s cyberwarfare organization is under the command of the IRGC’s Intelligence Organization.

The same cyber unit of the IRGC Intelligence Organization that is involved in targeting the dissidents is also responsible for the regime’s cyberwarfare against the West and the countries in the region.

Cyber-attacks by the Iranian regime must not be analyzed in a vacuum and separate from other repressive measure at home, export of terrorism and nuclear expansion. To counter Tehran’s increasing cyber threats, a comprehensive and decisive policy must be adopted.

As the regime continues to weaken under tremendous pressure of domestic opposition and stifling international sanctions, it has intensified its weaponization of western cyber technology to target its own people as well as its regional and international adversaries.

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